

# AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.



*Agriculture is the most healthful, the most useful, and the most noble employment of man.*—WASHINGTON.

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NO. I.

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## TO OUR READERS.

EVERY person who reads this article, if agreeable to him, we should like to have act as agent for our paper. Nearly all might induce more or less of their neighbors and friends to take it, thus benefiting them, and greatly increasing our circulation. Although this is considerable, still we should be gratified to see it extended. We probably have thirty thousand readers now, but we should be glad to have fifty, or even one hundred thousand; and we might obtain this number easily if our friends felt disposed to exert themselves somewhat in favor of the work. We respectfully call their attention to the following article on the importance of educating the farmer; and for this purpose we know nothing superior to Agricultural Journals. If these were disseminated bountifully among them, and they were apprised of their inestimable value to their calling, they would soon take them home and learn to esteem them as their best friends and advisers.

## IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING THE FARMER.

It is calculated that the division of the occupations of men in the United States is nearly in the following proportions:—

Number engaged in Internal Navigation	33,076
“ “ Ocean	56,021
“ “ the learned professions	65,255
“ “ Commerce	119,607
“ “ Manufactures	791,749
“ “ Agriculture	3,719,951

Thus it will be seen that those who are engaged in agriculture are three and a half times greater in number than those in all the other divisions. The agriculturists consequently have the physical and numerical power, and can at any time control every government in the United States, and give tone to

public opinion. But do they? No, indeed; for however powerful they may be in number, they are weak in influence, and this arises from want of proper education. The sixty-five thousand, two hundred and fifty-five, engaged in the learned professions, are intellectually stronger than the three millions, seven hundred and nineteen thousand, nine hundred and fifty one, engaged in agriculture, and therefore *rule* them. If it were not so, seven eighths of the offices in the country would not be held by lawyers and doctors; nor would all the colleges and high schools be endowed principally for the benefit of the learned professions.

Farmers, when will you arouse yourselves to the dignity and importance of your calling, and educate yourselves to that height of intelligence which will make you the *rulers* instead of the *ruled* of the other professions? There is surely nothing to prevent this if you will only be true to yourselves. Look at the millions annually thrown away upon the horrid barbarities of war or the preparations for it, and the honors that are awarded to those engaged in shedding a brother's blood, and compare these with the pitiful and downright contemptible sums which are grudgingly doled out for your benefit. Every occupation in the country seems to be bountifully provided for, save that of the farmer, and surely no one is to blame for this but yourselves; for if you choose, you need only speak to your servants, your rulers, and a reform might be had at once. Ponder these things well, then, and in the Legislatures assembled this winter, speak out and demand equal benefits with the most favored of the other professions.

## ANNUAL VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.—

The value of those grown the past year in the United States is estimated at upward of \$700,000,000.



## WEEDS—THEIR UTILITY.

WHEN not occupied with useful crops, it is better to allow lands to run to grass, weeds, or almost any vegetation they will produce. A large accumulation of vegetable matter is thus secured upon the ground, no inconsiderable part of which is derived from that universal store house, the atmosphere, from which every skilful agriculturist should endeavor to draw as much as possible; and by turning this into the soil, an advantage is frequently obtained fully equivalent to a crop purposely grown for green manuring. Weeds and grass, after all, are less injurious than beneficial; and the intelligent farmer will not fail to make them subservient to his own interests, by permitting their growth when not in the way, and keeping them in subjection when they would interfere with a more useful vegetation. A few years ago we renovated a miserably poor field of several acres, by merely letting the weeds grow spontaneously upon it, and then plowing them in as often as the principal ones were going out of bloom. By this method the land became clean by vegetating the seeds of all the weeds in it, and was nearly as much enriched as if we had plowed in a succession of green crops—such as clover, buckwheat, or rye.

## AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ADDRESSES.

IN the first volumes of this journal, we wrote some rather pungent articles on the unmeaning generalities which at that time too often formed the staple of Agricultural Society Addresses. Those who made them, usually began with father Adam and mother Eve, then quoted Hesiod, Virgil, and if their learning had come down so far, good old Tom Tusser. They would next offer some common place remarks, and at last wound up by telling the farmers that they were the bone and sinew of the country; the most independent and virtuous class to be found; the wisest, happiest, and best of men; the basis of the body politic and pillars of society; in short, the most enviable beings of the community, &c., &c.; all which nauseous flattery only served to disgust a plain set of common sense men, or called forth their derision of the glib orator of the occasion, who had *talked much*, yet in their sound judgments *knew precious little*—at least, of what most concerned them. Now, happily, we are pleased to notice a great change in the matter and manner of these addresses.

One of the best which has fallen under our notice the present season, was delivered by B. P. Johnson, Esq., before the Greene County Agricultural Society, at its late Annual Fair at Windham Centre. It is, in fact, an admirable model; and those who are destined to make addresses another year, will do well to study this for the suggestive pertinency of its topics, and the simple and condensed manner in which they are placed before the people. As an illustration of our meaning, we quote the following.

Discoursing of English Agriculture, Mr. Johnson says:—"Great care is given to the selection of seed grains. In many instances so much nicety is observed, that the earliest heads and most luxuriant are taken out by hand, and carefully drilled in, until the product is sufficient for use; and in this way

some of the best varieties of wheat now grown in England have been secured."

Again he says:—"Not only is the care and attention which have been mentioned, given to the matters alluded to, but the cattle and sheep are bred with a perfection never before equalled. Their aptitude to fatten at an early age, to lay on their flesh on the most valuable parts, has been secured both in cattle and sheep, to a perfection that is truly surprising. I have seen week after week in Smithfield Market, London, from 3,000 to 5,000 beasts a week, a large majority of which are of the choicest animals, and would compete at any of our fairs, successfully for the premiums, with the best stock we have. The cattle brought to the market of their improved breeds are fattened at from 18 months to three years of age, seldom exceeding the latter age. The advantage to the breeder of turning off his cattle thus early, must be apparent."

In suggesting improvements to the farmers of Greene county, he adds:—"From your locality, the nature of your soil and climate, your facility of access to the great commercial metropolis of our country, it appears to me, that one great branch of agriculture with you, must eventually be, the raising and fattening cattle and sheep for market. I have already alluded to the success which has attended the efforts to improve both cattle and sheep in England, for the shambles. The same care and attention here in the selection of breeding animals, would eventually give you a stock, which would in every desirable quality, equal the animals in England, and yield you a reward for your efforts and investments that would be satisfactory to all. Your attention should be directed to the preparation of your lands for grazing. The growing of fine wool, also, would doubtless prove profitable, and your county seems well adapted to this business. An increase in this branch of agricultural industry would be a means of enriching your land, and enhancing its value for agricultural purposes."

"The superiority of our apples over those grown in England is now acknowledged *even there*, by every one who has tasted our fruit. The price which our apples bear in their markets, is much higher than their own fruit. In passing through Covent Garden Market, in London, where the choicest fruits and vegetables from almost every clime are found in great profusion, I discovered in a glass show case, some fine yellow apples, labelled "*American Newtown Pippins*." Glad to see even an apple that belonged once to my own loved native land, the land of the free, I inquired the price, and was informed that I could have them for 6s. sterling per dozen, being at the rate of nearly 12 cents each. I was *satisfied with the look of these Americans*, as you may well suppose. Let me then urge upon you the importance of cultivating *good fruit*, and that only. 'Tis best for your own use, best for market, and costs no more than the poorest. Your climate and soil, except perhaps in some localities, I should judge, was well adapted to its cultivation, and success will crown your efforts rightly directed."

This is the way to talk to farmers. In the summer of 1846, we passed through a portion of Greene and Ulster counties, mingling with the hardy yeo-



manry of these bold mountain regions, and on our return to the city, wrote a short sketch of "Mountain Farming," see vol. v., page 301, of the *Agriculturist*. By reference to this article, it will be seen that we agree entirely with Mr. Johnson in the suggestions above. The hilly regions of these countries ought to have been found covered with hardy Galloway cattle, Southdown, and fine-wooled sheep, and fruit trees. With the products of these, the farmers would have been so wealthy that they would never have thought of anti-rent meetings; but would have been able and willing to have become the owners in fee-simple of the soil they occupied.

We had scarce finished writing the above, when we received the address delivered before the Hartford County Agricultural Society of Connecticut, in October last, by our excellent friend, Professor John P. Norton, of Yale College. This also is an admirable thing in its way. But instead of choosing a variety of subjects, Mr. Norton has confined himself to one, viz. draining. This is a highly important subject, and one which unfortunately has received little attention at the hands of the American farmer.

To show its great value, Mr. N. says:—"In 1846, I visited the farm of Mr. Dudgeon, of Spylaw, at Kelso, Scotland, near the English border. The surface soil was stiff, and the subsoil almost impervious to water. He had then drained about 90 acres, and the length of drains was nearly 300 miles! His landlords defrayed about half of the expense. He had a tile work which turned out from 400,000 to 500,000 tiles in a year, but not sufficient to supply his wants. He was then in the beginning of a new nineteen-year lease, and was draining as fast as possible, in order to reap the utmost advantage. The drains immediately raised the value of his land from a rent of \$2.50 per acre, to one of \$6.50. Owing to their ameliorating and drying influence, he had fine crops of turnips on stiff clays where it had never before been thought possible to grow them. The system of draining across the slopes had been tried on this farm, but abandoned as ineffectual, in comparison with Smith of Deanston's method. He was even going over those fields anew; at the time of my visit workmen were cutting straight down one of the slopes, across the old drains. Mr. Le Roy, a proprietor in the same neighborhood, had put in about 250 miles of drains on his own estate, thereby increasing the rent of many of his farms from \$5.00 to \$14.00 per acre. These were men of large property, but instances of equal or even greater success on a small scale, are frequent in many districts. In travelling over an unusually large portion of Great Britain, and hearing the experience of a very great number of practical men, I never met one who was disappointed in the result of efficient, thorough draining."

"The manner of carrying out improvements, and the extent to which they are at once adopted, must necessarily be very different in this country and in England. Our farmers are mostly proprietors of moderate means, each managing his own land. We have no tenants who are willing to pay eight or ten thousand dollars of annual rent, when that sum would purchase a superb estate in the West. Our farming being on so much smaller a scale, the im-

provements must be more gradually perfected. They may, however, and in this instance ought to be, of a similar character. The remedy for wet cold land, is the same here as there, and there are few of our farmers who could not in the course of each year, find time to accomplish something; even without increasing, to any material extent, their usual force. Half an acre or an acre of drains might surely be put in annually on almost any farm, and I have little doubt that he who commenced by one acre a year, would not long be contented without doing more."

In order to show how easily draining may be done, Mr. Norton gives a sketch of the recently improved pipe. He says:—"At present however, another form of tile is coming into general favor. It is a simple round pipe, made in lengths like the first, and for the cross drains of not more than an inch and a half in the diameter of the bore. These can be made much cheaper than the other kind, as they are smaller, and all in one piece. They are not more than half the weight of the old fashioned tile and sole, and therefore an additional saving is effected on the transportation. The trench for their reception is also much smaller, being at the top just wide enough to allow the trencher to work, and cut at the bottom with a narrow tool, to exactly the proper size for the reception of the pipe. The pieces are simply laid end to end, and wedged with small stones when necessary. The water finds its way in at the joints. Many have expressed doubts as to the operation of these drains, thinking that water would scarcely penetrate into so small a channel, through such minute apertures. No difficulty has been experienced in any case. One gentleman residing in the south of England, who has employed these small pipe tiles in draining exceedingly stiff clays, laying them at the depth of three feet, and ramming the clay hard down; offered a premium of £100 [\$500] to any person who would keep the water out of them. These tiles, of both varieties, are made by machinery. The clay is worked in an ordinary pug mill, such as is used in brick making, care being taken that no stones are present; it is then forced through a die of a circular or horse-shoe shape, according to the kind of tile intended to be made. It passes through in a continuous stream, which is cut off into the proper lengths by hand, or by a little apparatus connected with the machine. After drying sufficiently they are burned in a kiln. By the use of machines, and by manufacturing on a large scale, the price of tiles has been brought very low. In some parts of England the small round pipes now cost only ten shillings or \$2.50 per thousand, each tile being fourteen inches in length. This would make them only about four cents per rod. There is no doubt, that, should the demand be great they may soon be obtained here at as low rates. I hope to receive in the course of a few weeks such information from one of my Scotch friends, as will enable me either to give directions for the making of the best tile machine, in this country, or for the importation of a small one from England as a model. If the farmers only call for them in great quantity, I have full confidence that our American mechanics will soon improve upon the best English model that can be obtained. Even at \$5.00 per thousand, or eight cents per rod, the em-



ployment of tiles would be cheaper than that of stones in most situations, unless they had to be transported many miles. It is, moreover, much easier for inexperienced persons to cover them properly."

Much of the land in and about Hartford, is what is termed in New Jersey, a "red shale," which means a pretty stiff, red clay soil. It is strong land, and particularly good for grass. But it would be greatly improved by under-draining; and we hope the intelligent farmers of Hartford will be disposed to put the recommendations of Mr. Norton in practice. We are confident that in so doing, they would double the value of their property. As we were passing up the banks of the Connecticut last summer, we saw many fields in which there was standing water some time after a rain, and springy places, which were a great detriment to the land. No hoed crops could have been cultivated there with success; and a coarse watery grass was their only product, and must continue to be till draining is resorted to.

We would gladly have quoted at greater length from these capital addresses, but our limits forbid. It will be seen that both of these gentlemen have been abroad, and that they have made an excellent use of this important advantage; and now take pleasure whenever called upon, to liberally impart such information as they have obtained in their travels, as they think will benefit the farming community.

**NUMBER OF SWINE IN THE UNITED STATES.**—According to a late census recently taken of the swine in Ohio, they amount to a little short of 2,000,000; we may therefore suppose, that if the census were taken of all in the United States, in the month of September, when young and old are most numerous, they would not fall short of 20,000,000, or say a pig for each inhabitant!

#### PRUNING OF THE PEACH TREE.

The pruning of the peach tree differs very materially from that of the apple and the pear. In the latter, a shoot may be shortened to any bud and the one directly below the cut will almost invariably produce a shoot; but a peach shoot must be cut to a place where there is a wood bud; for, if shortened to a blossom bud only, no shoot can result. It sometimes so happens that all the buds on a shoot are blossom buds, except the terminal one and one or two at the base. Such a shoot must either be left its entire length, or cut back to the wood bud at its base. The shoots of the peach naturally terminate always with a wood bud. If this be cut off, the blossoms on the part left will expand, and the fruit may set; but all will prematurely drop without setting, or the fruit would fall at the time of stoning; at all events, a leafless, budless shoot would result incapable of further vegetation, dying downward to the first wood bud. There are instances on record, however, of peaches, as well as of nectarines, attaining maturity without a shoot at their bases, or above them, which may be regarded only as exceptions to a general rule.

The peach and nectarine bear their fruit exclusively on wood of the preceding summer's growth. For instance, a peach plucked from the

branch in the autumn of 1848, it must be from wood formed in the summer of 1847, and which had no existence, as a shoot, in 1846, although then its origin might have been traced to a vital point within a bud. Such an almost invisible point, in 1846, might have been the section of the shoot *A*, as denoted in Fig. 1.

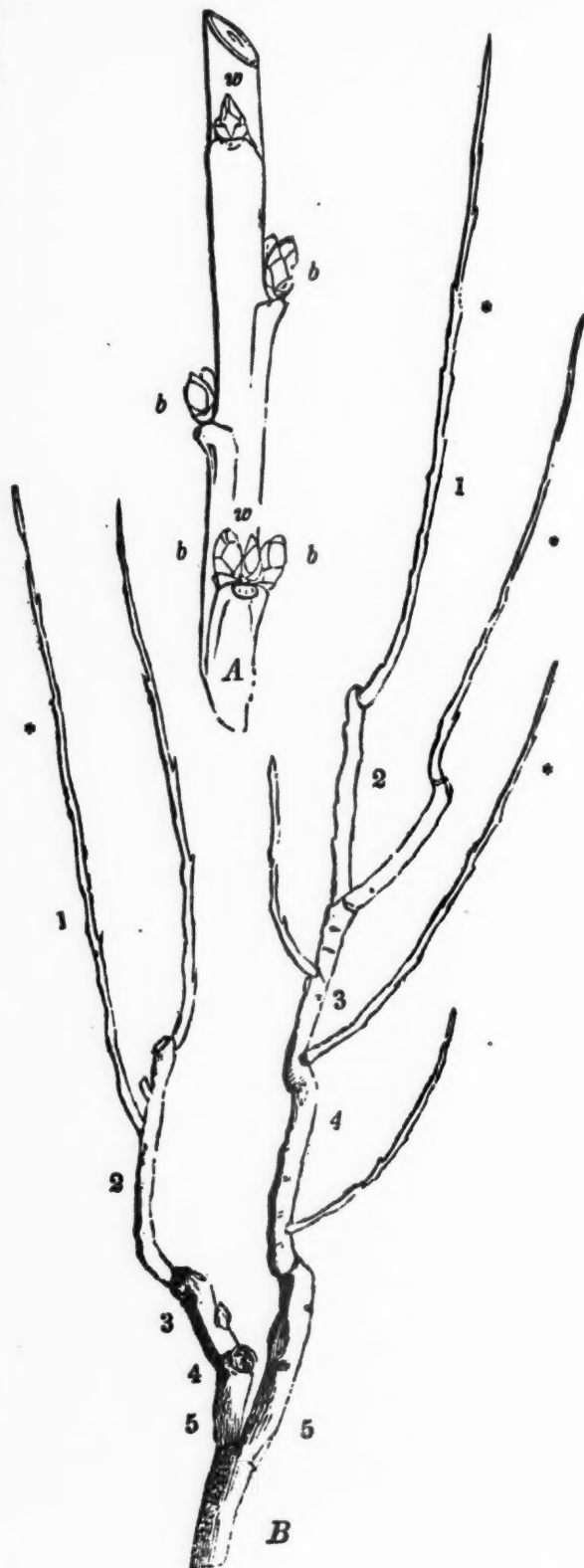


FIG. 1.

In the summer of 1847, this point would have been developed from a bud, forming a shoot fur-



nished with leaves disposed singly, in twos or threes, at the nodes along the growing shoot. In the axil of each of these leaves, the rudiments of a bud would have been formed; the leaves, having accomplished their office, would have fallen last autumn, whilst the energy of the young buds continued to increase; and their present winter appearance would be represented by *A*, in the figure above.

Blossom buds of the peach tree, it will be remembered, may be distinguished by their plumpness and ovate form, which gradually become globose (*b, b, b, b*, Fig. 1.) They have also a hoary appearance, owing to the scales opening and exposing their downy integuments in winter and spring. On opening them, the rudiments of petals, stamens, &c., may easily be seen by the naked eye. The wood buds are comparatively slender, conical, often impressed by contact of an adjoining blossom bud, or compressed when between two of the latter (*w, w*, fig. 1.) Their scaly covering is less deranged by expansion of their interior parts in early spring than is the case with the blossom buds, and consequently they exhibit less of that hoary pubescence by which the others are distinguished. In the case of triple buds, the middle one is generally a wood bud.

We will now revert to the section of the shoot *A*, with its wood and blossom buds, as represented, and follow up their progress. The blossom buds *b, b, b, b*, under ordinary circumstances, would produce four peaches, but one is enough to leave to come to high perfection. This will depend, however, much on the age and vigor of the tree. We have known ten good sized peaches to grow on a single shoot; but such instances are rare. From the wood buds, *w, w*, shoots would proceed, which in the course of next summer would form buds for future bearing; and at the beginning of the year 1849, would appear similar to those denoted on *A*.

*B*, in fig. 1, represents the branch of a peach tree ready for pruning. The figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, denote the respective ages of the portions of the branch opposite. The asterisks \* at the sides of the shoots, indicate the place to which these may be shortened at the winter pruning.

If the blossom buds can readily be distinguished, the best time for pruning the peach tree, as well as for most kinds of stone fruits, is in autumn, just as the leaves are falling, when the sap is in a downward motion, and when a more perfect cicatrization, or healing of the wound will take place, than if pruned in winter or spring.

#### SWINE RUNNING AT LARGE.

WE do not know of a more loathsome or reprehensible custom than that which prevails, not only in the upper part of this city, but in many of the beautiful villages around it, of letting swine run at large in the streets. It requires close, strong fences, and a constant watch of the gates to guard against their depredations, and these are necessarily kept up at a great expense; they drop their ordure on the side walks, and along the by-paths, making it exceedingly disagreeable to every pedestrian, and this, aside from the disgust it creates, is a great waste of valuable manure; and then if of a poor

breed, which is too generally the case, they are dirty and loathsome to behold.

Visiting a handsome village in this neighborhood last summer, which we forbear to name, we found the swine there not only overrunning the streets, but even pasturing and rooting up the fine grassy turf in front of the churches and in the grave yard on the Sabbath, where elegant ladies and well dressed gentlemen were going in and out. What a desecration we thought, and how was it possible for a genteel, moral people to tolerate it for a moment! But tolerate it they had for years, and will doubtless continue to do so for years to come, notwithstanding this article, merely because a few loafers and careless housekeepers must be obliged at the expense of a numerous community. The law is stringent enough against swine running at large, but the respectable portion of the community fear to put it in effect!

A well bred pig, in fine condition, is a highly commendable animal in a pen, or in a close-fenced back lot rather out of sight, and there they should be kept. If any loafer presumes to let his swine run in the street, they ought to be instantly taken up and put in a pound, and the owner heavily fined; and in default of his immediately paying it, let them be sold at auction for what they would bring. This would soon put an end to the loathsome practice of letting swine run at large in the streets.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE N. Y. STATE AG. SOCIETY.—Our readers will please to bear in mind, that this meeting takes place at Albany, on the third Wednesday of January, 19th instant, for the purpose of choosing officers for the year ensuing, and transacting any other business proper to be done. We hope to see a full attendance of the members, and that in all their proceedings, selfish considerations and sectional prejudices will give place to liberal action. Gentlemen should remember that they are jealously watched by plain, honest farmers; and that the advancement of an improved system of agriculture throughout the State, is the sole object of these meetings. Whatever may tend to obstruct this great object or neutralize it in the smallest degree, should be put down at once with scorn and contempt.

#### ROT IN POTATOES.

MR. A. L. BINGHAM, of Cornwall, Vt., informs us, that he planted a part of his potatoes between every hill of a field of corn, and that the portion thus planted turned out perfectly sound, while more than two thirds of the crop planted by themselves in an adjoining field were affected with the rot. Both fields were planted and dug at about the same time, were of the same kind of soil and situation, and were otherwise treated as nearly alike as possible.

We are doubtful whether planting potatoes among corn will always secure them against the rot, as this is the only instance we have yet heard of its being tried with success, and there might have been other causes, aside from the one stated, which prevented the crop from rotting among the corn. But here is a remedy against the rot, which so far as we have heard, has proved infallible. We



have published it twice already in the *Agriculturist*, but not one farmer out of a thousand seems to have yet heard of it; for the special benefit therefore, of the ignorant nine hundred ninety and nine, we intend to insert the remedy two or three times more. It is simply this:—

When the seed is dropped, sprinkle about a pint of slaked lime over it in each hill and then cover.

There is this value about the lime, if it does not prevent the rot in the potato, it will be worth its cost and the labor of application in fertilizing the land.

#### APPLE ORCHARDS.—No. 5.

*Pruning.*—In pruning apple trees, it is alike important to regard the general form of their heads, as it is the management of their individual branches. A system which has long been practised in Europe, and has been adopted for many years in the United States, is to lead out of the upright stem, at a given height, a series of horizontal branches, each series comprising four limbs, situated at proper intervals, till the tree can bear no more of them. The advantages resulting from this mode, are, that the boughs can be made capable of producing fruit at an earlier age; the strength of such branches, at the place of their insertion into the stem, is much greater than of those which grow at more acute angles; and that the flat or semi-spherical heads of such trees seem designed not only to lessen the hold of the wind, but to diminish the influence of the shade on the crops around them, as well as to admit light, heat, and ventilation within them. It has been recommended that the head of the tree be somewhat hemispherical, with a hollow space left in the line of its central parts; for these parts are more secluded from the light and air, than the rest of the tree, and consequently are not adapted to the production



FIG. 2.

of fruit. In forming the head of a tree in the Atlantic parts of the United States, it has also been recommended to diminish the weight and quantity of boughs on its east or northeast side (the side opposite to the prevailing winds), as trees generally incline that way; and to encourage the branches on the opposite side to screen the sun from the trunk, in order to prevent its powerful rays in summer from killing the bark, and causing canker and ruin to the tree. Mr. Knight recommends most attention to be paid to the lateral branches, which if unchecked by occasional pruning, are apt to load the tree too much at the extremities. Mr. Joseph Cooper, of New Jersey, entertained a similar opinion. "Young fruit trees," said he, "should not have the side shoots cut close to the stem, which forces the growth the whole way up the top; which becomes so weighty as to bend and spoil the trees. I have found it better to cut the ends of the side shoots \* \* \* \* which will encourage the growth of the stem or trunk, till it acquires strength to support a good top." After the head of the tree is properly formed, nothing more is necessary than to cut out all the branches that cross each other, or are likely to be in the way within three years. As the trees produce their fruit upon cursions or spurs, care must be observed not to cut off or destroy them, as

they continue to be fruitful for several seasons. It has also been recommended to "prune at a fork," or at least, "at a bud;" on the ground that a wound is best protected when covered by bark from without; and as the bark never spreads over the end of a long stump, but only over the place from which it has been taken, the new cover must be supplied by the extension of the bark of another branch, and such a branch, even a bud may become in time. Till this extension of bark be effected, however, an artificial covering should be substituted, by shaving the wounded surface close and smooth, and applying immediately a plaster composed of

	Parts.
White Burgundy pitch, . . . . .	16
Black pitch, . . . . .	4
Resin, . . . . .	4
Bees' wax, . . . . .	4
Tallow, . . . . .	8
Pounded mastic, . . . . .	1
Saltpetre, . . . . .	1

This mixture should be warmed over a slow fire for three fourths of an hour; and when melted, but not too hot, be put on with a brush to a depth of one sixteenth to one half of an inch in thickness, according to the size of the wound. In performing these operations, particular care must be observed not to injure the remaining branch or bud; and should a cut accidentally be made, the wounded part should by no means be removed, but be pressed fast together, and a coat of the composition immediately laid over it. The bearing capabilities of apple trees of considerable age may be much improved by judicious pruning, in removing decayed branches, and old, unprofitable boughs, where the head is too much crowded. These should, in all cases, be taken off by a clean cut, close to the branch from which they are separated, or at least to a lateral shoot, so that the part may heal over as soon as possible.

The proper season for pruning is about midsummer, or about the time the downward motion of the sap commences, and when a more perfect cicatrization of the wounded parts takes place, than if pruned in the winter or spring. Another important rule in pruning, is, to remove every part of the tree "incurably diseased;" not only because the disease may be contagious, but because rottenness of itself occasions increased evils, from the weather, from insects, and other causes. When the adjoining wood and bark pruned to the quick, and properly sheltered, room is given, as we have pointed out, for a natural cover to be made for the wound. But we must repeat, that the wound, if possible, must be protected, or the evil may be made worse, from various causes. When consistent, the wound occasioned by pruning should be on the lower side of the branch, rather than on the upper side; especially where no composition is intended to be applied, as the lower side is least exposed to the sun and rain. It is a good rule to have no reliance on boughs which are kept continually damp by the drippings of other boughs, or upon those which are kept constantly screened from the sun. "The general shape of an old tree" should be kept substantially the same, in order that the ascending juices may continue as nearly as possible in their



accustomed channels; or if changes are aimed at, they should be gradual. Hence, care must be taken not to cut off "too many large limbs at a time," lest the sap of some of the roots, and particularly those corresponding to these limbs, should be too suddenly checked in its ascent.

Sometimes trees, which at first were good bearers, become stag-headed and unfruitful. It is more than probable that this condition is owing to some defect in the soil. The proper remedy to be resorted to in this case, is, what is called "heading down:" that is, removing all the branches to within a foot or two of the main forks, or the stem of the tree, in order to encourage the formation of a healthy and vigorous head. This operation should be accompanied by a heavy dressing of compost, formed of oyster shell lime, ashes and loam, extending for a considerable distance round the tree, which should be dug in with the turf. According to the opinion of some orchardists, pruning, after the head of the tree is properly formed, is to be avoided as much as possible, as it creates numerous useless shoots, and prevents the production of fruit. A very important advantage, however, may be derived from this principle by provoking young shoots to appear by skilfully wounding the bark in the vacant spaces of a branch, and thereby regulate the symmetry of the tree.

#### WORK FOR THE SEASON.

In every month, ere in aught be begun,  
Read over that month what avails to be done;  
So neither this travell may seem to be lost,  
Nor thou to repent of this trifling cost.—*Tusser.*

In our youthful days, one of the books which gave us the greatest pleasure to peruse, was the quaint old poem, called, "Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry," by Thomas Tusser. A beautiful edition of this work has ever since graced our library, and although our time is now very much engrossed with an exacting business, yet we occasionally find means to snatch an hour during the long winter evenings, to devote to the perusal of what formerly gave us so much delight. In conning over the lines above quoted, a short time since, it occurred to us that we might profitably ask our readers, the pertinent question of "What avails to be done" during this month, that their "travell" (labor) "may not seem to be lost."

We will suppose your horses, cattle, sheep, and swine daily well fed, housed, and cleaned; that your grain is being prepared for the market; that your wood pile is replenished, and such logs as will be wanted for sawed stuff the coming year are taken during good sledding to the saw mill; that the manure as fast as the heaps accumulate, is carted out to the fields and deposited where it will be needed in spring, and if the weather be open, that peat, swamp muck, the leaves of trees, and all decaying matter around your premises are added in proper quantities to these heaps; that all the tools as time permits are being put in order; that the hemp and flax are broken; that you are giving a look to the orchard and cutting out all decayed and dead limbs; and if you care for early vegetables and have time to cultivate them, that the hot beds are now in rapid preparation in the garden; that you have settled all your accounts for the past year; that you are kind

and generous to your poor neighbors; and finally, that you are at peace with yourself and the world. Then what remains to be done? It is this. As you have time, review the numbers of your last year's agricultural periodical—for no man can be entitled to be called a really good farmer, who does not take one of these cheap and highly useful publications—and note all the hints in it of any value to you, and prepare to carry them into practice during the coming active season. If you have more time than this to give to books, commence some one study closely bearing on your occupation. Of these, there is a great variety. For example, agricultural chemistry; mineralogy; vegetable physiology and botany; arboriculture; mechanics, particularly those branches which are connected with building, and the manufacture of agricultural implements; engineering as it has a bearing on ditching, draining, and fencing; natural history, together with the anatomy and pathology of the domestic animals.

These are such things as the farmer ought to know; and he may acquire a pretty good notion of them all by the time he is forty years old, if he will properly improve his winter evenings. Then the mind and hand would work together, and at so great an advantage as to surprise the world. Whenever any country can show such a race of practical and scientific farmers to work its surface, its agricultural productions will be quadrupled; and with morals to match—for these are pretty sure to go hand in hand with science—the enjoyments and happiness of those thus educated would be multiplied ten fold. Are not these things worth working for? We think so; and hope every tiller of the soil in America will respond to the assertion, and exert himself manfully to carry them into effect.

As sure as the sun shines, that farmer who is the most intelligent, and couples with that intelligence proper application and economy, always makes more of every thing under his control, and reaps a larger annual profit than those who are inferior to him in education. It is truly said, that "time is money;" may we not add with equal truth, that education is also money. If then, there be no higher motive on the part of the tillers of the soil to enlighten their minds and increase their understanding, let them do it solely for their worldly interest.

SECRETARY OF THE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The present incumbent, P. B. Johnson, Esq., has discharged the duties of this important office so ably and efficiently, and with such general satisfaction, that we trust he will be re-elected without opposition. It requires peculiar qualifications to fill such an office properly, and these qualifications we think Mr. Johnson possesses in an eminent degree. We think also the salary ought to be increased, and that something should be allowed him for an assistant, so as to enable him to travel more, and make the Society better known to the people. This would benefit the Society in two ways: first, by obtaining a considerable accession of friends to it; and second, the Secretary would be able to gather up a good deal of information, which condensed by way of reports in the pages of the Transactions, would tend to enlighten the farming community on those subjects which most interest them.

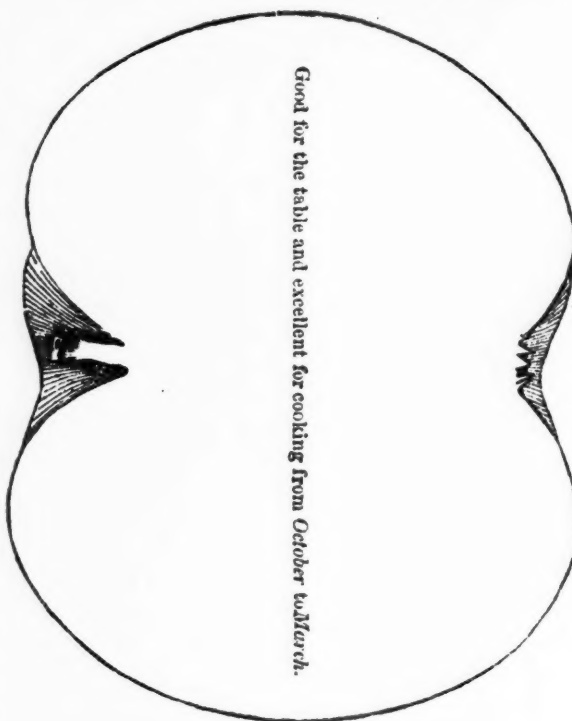


## CHOICE VARIETIES OF APPLES.

**NEWTOWN PIPPIN.**—This most celebrated and unquestionably best variety of apple in the world, is believed to have been the spontaneous production from a seed, more than a century and a half ago in Newtown on Long Island, near New York, and is well known by the name of "Newtown Pippin." The original tree stood on the estate owned at present by Mr. John J. Moore, of that town, and for a long time its fruit was called the "Gershom Moore Pippin," in honor of his grandfather, its former proprietor. After enduring for more than one hundred years, it died, in about the year 1805, from excessive cutting and exhaustion. Its scions were in great request by all the principal amateurs and orchardists of the day, and engrafted trees of it are still to be met with in the neighboring towns, which have stood beyond the memory of man. On the estate of Mr. Gardner G. Howland, at Flushing there are several trees of this variety, which bear abundantly every other year, and are supposed to be at least one hundred years old.

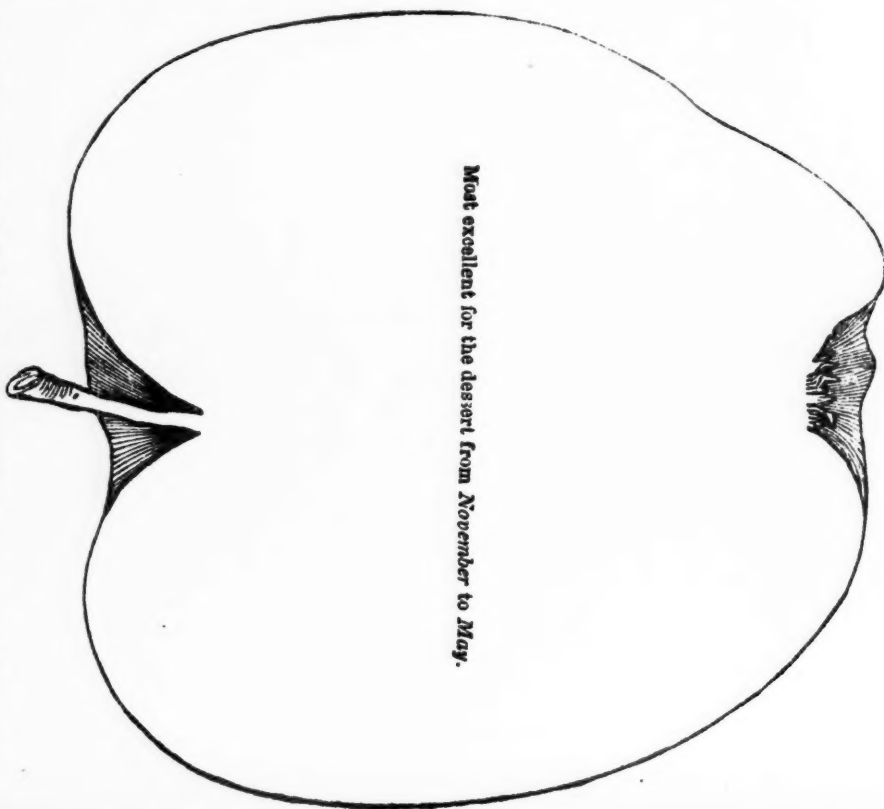
The Newtown pippin varies much in quality with soil, aspect, cultivation, climate, and age. The two most noted sorts are the "Green" and the "Yellow," the former of which is most esteemed for its properties of long keeping and retaining its freshness of flavor during distant voyages at sea. The form of both varieties is rather flat, the size somewhat large, the skin more or less yellow, at extreme maturity, often with blackish clouds or patches, and frequently marked with spots or blotches of red. It is of the green variety of this fruit that the celebrated orchards at "Pelham Farm," in the county of Ulster, are principally composed. The proprietor, Mr. R. L. Pell, informs us that his trees continue under his superior process of manuring and working the orchard grounds to bear vigorously every year; and, that during the past autumn, he put up for shipping, several thousand barrels. His apples command extraordinary prices in the English markets, and doubtless will soon be known in every quarter of the globe.

**YELLOW BELLE FLEUR.**—From its excellence and great beauty, this variety, according to Landreth, is the most popular apple in the Philadelphia market. Its size is remarkably large; is of a pale, but bright and fair yellow color, with the cheek next to the sun, sometimes wearing a blush, though more frequently is without any red. The form is oblong, somewhat pointed at the blossom end, and deeply indented at both ends. Its seeds are uncommonly large, and are lodged in cavities of unusual size. The flesh is rich, juicy, tender, and sprightly, and if carefully picked before they are too ripe, these apples will keep in high perfection through the winter, till late in the spring, especially when they become slightly shrivelled or wilted. The tree grows very large and spreading, and should be trained high, or the limbs will bend to the ground when heavily laden with fruit.



NEWTOWN PIPPIN.—FIG. 3.

Good for the table and excellent for cooking from October to March.



YELLOW BELLE FLEUR.—FIG. 4.

Most excellent for the dessert from November to May.



AGRICULTURE OF THE CHINESE.—No. 1.

On page 205, vol. vi. of the *Agriculturist*, in our notice of Fortune's "Three Years' Wanderings in the Northern Provinces of China," we proposed to publish from that work, in a condensed form, in two series of articles, one to be headed the "Domestic Flora of China," and the other the "Agriculture of the Chinese." The first of these series was concluded in our December number—the latter herewith commences, and will be continued through the present year. Mr. Fortune, it will be remembered, was sent to China by the London Horticultural Society, in 1843, for the purpose of obtaining new plants of an ornamental and useful character, with instructions to give every possible attention to the horticulture and agriculture of that wonderful country. The result of his observations was published, in England, a few months ago under the title above mentioned, which, in addition to the usual topics treated of by travellers, contains a large amount of reliable information on agriculture and its kindred subjects never before offered to the public.

The profession of agriculture in China has been highly honored and encouraged by the government of the country, from the earliest times down to the present day. The husbandman ranks higher here than he does in any other country in the world, and the emperor himself marks his sense of the importance of agriculture, by engaging in its operations at the commencement of every season. In his character of "Son of Heaven," or mediator between the gods and his subjects, he devotes three days to solemn fasting and prayer, after which he proceeds to a field, and with his own hands holds the plow, and throws a portion of the rice seed into the ground, thus showing the importance which government attaches to industry in the cultivation of the earth, that there may be plenty on the land to supply the wants of the teeming population.

The progress and advancement of the Chinese in agriculture as an art has been, however, greatly exaggerated by many who have adverted to this subject in their writings. The Chinese government has been always so jealous of foreigners entering the country, that those who were probably able to form a correct opinion on the subject were prevented from doing so, and were led away by the fertility of their imaginations; while, on the other hand, the Roman Catholic missionaries who travelled and resided in the interior, were evidently ignorant of the art itself, as well as of the progress it had made in other countries. But it must also be borne in mind, that whilst agriculture has been advancing rapidly towards perfection amongst the nations of the Western World, the Chinese in this, as with most other things, have remained stationary, and hence there must be a much greater disparity between us and them now than there was when the early writers upon China published their works. To these writers, and more particularly to those who kept on faithfully copying their works, we must attribute the erroneous opinions which have been generally held by us in every thing relating to the agriculture of the Chinese. I have no doubt that, as a nation, they surpass the natives of India and other half-civilized States in this art, as they do in most other peaceful accomplishments.

In order, however, that the reader may form an

opinion for himself, I will describe in detail what passed under my own eye connected with this subject, during my travels of nearly three years in the country. In that space of time I had an opportunity of seeing repeatedly the various methods of cultivation and their results, both in the north and in the south; all of which were carefully noted in my journal at the time. I will begin with the southern provinces. These are, of course, tropical, and differ from those in the north in many respects, both with regard to soil and the nature of the plants cultivated.

*Soil.*—The soil of the mountains in the south of China is of the poorest description. Rocks of granite are seen everywhere protruding themselves above the scanty vegetation, whilst the soil itself is composed of dry burnt clay mixed with particles of granite in a decaying or disintegrated state. This soil naturally so poor, is kept so by the practice of periodically cutting and carrying off the long grass and stunted bushes for firewood. Sometimes the natives set fire to this upon the mountains, for the purpose of affording a scanty manure, but nevertheless the soil is miserably sterile. Almost all the hilly portions of the south of China are in a state of nature "stern and wild," where the hand of man never attempts agricultural operations, and where it is almost impossible he ever can. Here and there, near the base of the hills, the far-famed terrace cultivation may be seen, where the natives grow small patches of rice and other vegetables, such as sweet potatoes and earth nuts, but the portion of land in this part of the country used for such purposes, bears but an extremely small proportion to the vast tracts in a wild state.

At Amoy and over all that part of the province of Fokien the mountains are even more barren than those of Quantung. On some of the hills on the island of Amoy, the traveller may wander for miles and scarcely see even a weed. On every side there is nothing but masses of dark crumbling granite, and red burnt-looking clay. This, however, seems the northern boundary of the most barren part of China. When we reach the river Min near Foo-chow-foo, there is a great change visible in the vegetation of the hills, caused, of course, by the richer nature of the soil. This remark applies to the northern portion of Fokien and to the whole of the province of Chekiang. I have ascended hills near the mouth of the Min at least 3,000 feet above the level of the sea, which were under cultivation to their summit. The soil here was composed of a gravelly loam; and though far from rich, it contained more vegetable matter or humus, and was also much deeper. This addition of vegetable matter rendered the soil sufficiently fertile to repay the Chinese farmer for the labor expended in bringing the crops to maturity. Some of the hills are of course much more productive than others. The tea districts, for example, both in the province of Fokien and Chekiang, are not only more fertile, but are very different from what they are generally supposed to be.

But even here, and over all the most fertile mountain districts of Central China, it would be ridiculous to assert, as some have done, that the whole or even the greater part is under cultivation. On the contrary by far the greater part lies in a state of



nature and has never been disturbed by the hand of man. I am anxious to state this fact in express terms, in order to set those right who have been led to believe that every inch of land in the empire, however bleak and barren, is under cultivation, having given way to Chinese industry and skill! I myself, before I visited China, was under the same impression; but the first glance at the rugged mountainous shores soon convinced me of my error. Unfortunately, our opinions of a distant unknown country are apt to go to extremes, either fancying it entirely barren, or else a paradise of fertility.

The soil of the valleys or plains varies quite as much in different provinces as it does in the hills. The level of these valleys or plains is generally very low; in many instances below that of the rivers and canals. In the south the soil consists of a strong stiff clay mixed with a small portion of sand, but containing scarcely any vegetable matter or humus. This is its composition about Canton and Macao, and in fact over all the provinces of the south, unless perhaps in the vicinity of large towns, where its natural character has been altered to a certain extent by the influence of manure. Where the hills lose their barren character, four or five hundred miles to the northward from Hong-kong, a visible change takes place also in the soil of the valleys and plains. In the district of the Min, for example, instead of being almost entirely composed of a strong stiff clay it is mixed with a considerable portion of vegetable matter, and is an excellent strong loam, not unlike that which we find in some of our best wheat lands in England and Scotland, and capable of producing excellent crops. As a general rule it may be observed, that the lower the valleys are, the more the soil approaches in its nature to the stiff clay of the south, and *vice versa*. For instance, the Shanghai district is several feet higher above the level of the rivers and canals than that of Ning-po, and the soil of the latter consists more of a stiff clay and has less vegetable matter in its composition, and is far from being so fertile as the cotton district of Shanghai.

#### THE CANADIAN PROVINCIAL CATTLE SHOW AT HAMILTON.

On a bright autumnal morning early in October, I left home on a visit to the Hamilton Cattle Show, having been warmly invited thither by my friend, the Hon. Adam Ferguson, now President of the Society. Crossing the Niagara, opposite my own residence, to Waterloo, on the Canadian shore, I followed the river down sixteen miles, over a level, yet fertile country, tolerably cultivated in the old fashioned Dutch way, to Chippewa, two miles above the Falls. The scenery along the river thus far is quiet and beautiful. The banks are raised from six to fifteen feet above the water, which flows in a full, broad stream of great clearness and purity, spreading from half a mile to a mile in width, and smooth as a polished mirror. The Canada side of the Niagara was settled during the Revolutionary war—of course an old country in America. Its agriculture is pretty much stationary; yet bearing abundantly of all the cereal grains, the grasses, Indian corn, and roots. The farm stock is mean enough. The cattle, sheep, and hogs wretch-

ed, and the horses only so-so. Of poultry, they keep any quantity—the farmers' wives being proverbial along the Canada shore for their poultry, eggs, and butter. Fine orchards of excellent apples line the river banks—a real redeeming quality to their usual lack of enterprise; and owing to the vicinity of the river, the fruit is never cut off by spring frosts, giving them constant, and with rare exceptions, full annual crops.

Passing Chippewa, a little village two miles above the Falls, the country varies somewhat in character, the soil growing more sandy—it being a clayey loam above the river, and the cultivation rather improving. At and about the Falls, is the village of Drummondville, lying upon the celebrated battle grounds of Lundy's Lane and Bridgewater—a rare and beautiful spot. The village in itself is pretty and neatly built, with several fine houses scattered about the neighborhood. A light, warm, sandy loam furnishes a soil of surpassing excellence for all kinds of northern fruits, which flourish in the highest perfection. Along the road lying through Stamford, which is a continual village for three miles beyond Drummondville, are seen the finest fruit trees. Many old peach trees 8 to 10 inches in diameter, and which I was assured were full thirty years old, were breaking under their loads of fruit; and apples and pears hung in the bending orchards in the fullest luxuriance. Indeed, there is no finer fruit region in America than the shores of the Niagara, on both sides, from Lake Erie to Ontario, when properly cultivated. But the peach below the table land or mountain, five or six miles distant from the Falls, where the whole country descends abruptly from the Erie to the Ontario level, some 300 feet in height, is more luxuriant than near Lake Erie, owing to a higher temperature and an earlier spring.

Descending the mountain, through the remarkable gorge so particularly noticed in the geological notes of Professor Lyell, and which by the way is a most picturesque and beautiful passage—the little hamlet of St. David's occurs on the main road, running west from Queenston, on the Niagara, to Hamilton. Taking this road, which is well McAdamized for several miles, I passed St. Catharine's, a village of some 4 or 5,000 inhabitants, on the Welland Canal, and distant some six miles from Lake Ontario. The lands all along on this road are eminently fine, yielding wheat, corn, and all the lesser grains, roots, grasses, and fruit in the highest perfection. The agriculture too is quite good. All the way from Queenston to Hamilton these remarks will apply. The soil is chiefly a strong loam running into varieties of clay and sand, but universally rich and durable. Immense quantities of apples loaded the orchards all along the road; good buildings were frequent; and the whole country wears the appearance of prosperity and comfort. Farms are worth from \$30 to \$50 per acre; but few are disposed to sell—a capital indication in a farming community.

At St. Catherine's, passes the Welland Canal, which connects the lakes Erie and Ontario, floating steam and sail vessels of 400 tons burthen. Within sight of St. Catharine's, it descends the mountain by a course of about 30 locks, making a descent of some 300 feet to the Ontario level. It is a stupen-



dous work, worthy of the forecast and enterprise of the Canadian government. Familiar as I have long been with canals, I was forcibly struck with the sight of numerous masts, and shipping, and steamboats, working their sinuous course through the quiet farms, amid cornfields, meadows, and herds of cattle, and threading their way as they locked along up the sides of the mountain, two or three hundred feet above me, and only a mile or two distant! The picture was not only novel, but it was spirit-stirring, striking, and beautiful. St. Catharine's is a pretty town, composed of English, Scotch, Irish, native Canadians, and Yankees; quite a large representation of the latter, and taking their full share in the enterprise, business, and wealth of the country.

The entire road to Hamilton, passes close under the mountain, and upon it are many charming and fertile spots, some pleasant villages, and occasionally a point of remarkable beauty of position and luxuriance of soil; equal indeed to any I have ever met, and many of these spots are improved with fine taste and discrimination. Numerous retired officers of the British government, and others of moderate, yet comfortable estates for rural enjoyment, have settled in the Province. Many a quiet and pleasant spot have they selected; and with their good judgment and snug English notions, have made themselves as agreeable homes as an unambitious heart could desire.

Forty miles west of the Niagara River, at the head of Lake Ontario, and right under the mountain, which towers up three or four hundred feet above it in an almost perpendicular wooded bank, stands Hamilton, a new, yet rapid growing town of eight thousand people; and only a dozen or fifteen years since its settlement commenced. It is destined to be the largest town in Upper Canada, having a fine back country for near two hundred miles to Lake Huron; and is rapidly settling with a good population, for which this is, by its local position and the course of internal communication, to be the emporium. No spot can be more commanding and agreeable for a fine town. The soil, a sandy loam, the mountain or table land, stretching like a deep crescent around the head of the lake, descending in slopes of great variety and beauty to its shore, forming for a dozen miles, an amphitheatre of hill, dale, woodland, and lawn, upon which are sprinkled many a pretty farm house and villa. A richer and more charming prospect, is seldom found than here.

Arriving the day previous to the show, I found the people gathering from various parts of the Province, with a spirit, and in numbers indicating zeal for agricultural improvement altogether gratifying; and at night, the town was full of people, anxious for the exciting scenes and competition of the morrow. To-morrow came, and with it came also clouds and storm. The show ground was on the race course, a mile and a half out of town, with a wretched road, now by the mass of vehicles and animals passing on it, cut into almost impassable ruts and sloughs; an inconsiderate arrangement enough, when so much vacant and commodious ground lay all around and in the village, which could have been so well appropriated. But the race course was fenced in with high and

tight boards and commodious buildings, which was no doubt the object of the society in using it; they not having yet adopted our State plan of compelling the place where the show is held to furnish the preparations and fixtures, without expense to the society.

With the exception of the weather, which was disagreeable in the extreme, the show was a good one, remarkably so, for the age of the society; this being only the second exhibition it has held. First and foremost in importance, the people themselves were highly respectable. Many a stout and substantial representative of the better class of English, Scotch, and Irish farmers, were mingled with the numerous native Canadians, as well as Yankees, who have made the Canadas their home; all well representing the industry of themselves and their families, by the various products which they brought. Indeed, the only surprise was, that in such weather, so many ventured out; but come they did, females and all, prompted by their zeal and curiosity to see the show. Of horses, there were two classes, blood, and horses of all work. Both classes were highly respectable, and many first rate animals might be selected among them. A very beautiful and high bred horse called Mercer, owned by Mr. Hathaway, of St. Catharine's, and bred by Com. Stockton, of Princeton, New Jersey, was exhibited among others. They have some excellent horses in Canada among their spirited breeders.

In cattle, the different breeds were tolerably represented with some remarkably good specimens in each class of Short Horns. Messrs. Fergusson, Wetherhall, and Hewitt, had the most numerous herds. Several others also exhibited good animals, and I was gratified to find that the number of Short Horn breeders, are so many and so skilful as in Canada. There were some remarkably good cattle among them.

Of Herefords, there were none.

There were a few choice Devons, but in low condition, and not appreciated as they should be. They will, when properly understood, be a choice and valuable stock for the Canadians.

Of Ayrshires, the exhibition was decidedly the best I ever saw. There were several fine imported bulls and cows, with their progeny as choice as themselves, and the whole numbered more than twenty. The Scotch farmers have imported many Ayrshires, but they are not equal favorites with the Short Horns.

Fat cattle were shown only by the butchers of the town, and they were but common specimens. As a whole, the common cattle of Canada are inferior to those of the United States, improvement in breeding having but recently commenced among them.

The show of sheep was very good in Leicesters and Southdowns. Perhaps thirty of the former, and twenty of the latter, were on the ground, besides numerous crosses of the two breeds upon the common sheep. I saw not one fine woolled sheep in the lot. The Canadians know very little of either Merinos or Saxons, and I was surprised to hear some respectable farmers say, that they never saw a Merino sheep! So valuable a portion of farm stock as fine woolled sheep, should not be longer neglected. The reason given for their non-cultiva-



tion is, the want of a market for the wool. It will bring no more than native wool in Canada. There were some good hogs of the kind represented—in truth I was surprised to find so many good ones. But they were enormously large; the largest decidedly, I ever saw. Black and white, spotted, and pure white in color; called by the different names of Leicester, Yorkshire, and some other local names. There were only a few Berkshires, the finest boned and smoothest altogether of the hogs exhibited. The others must be great consumers, and are rather coarse in appearance; but as they appeared to be decided favorites, it will hardly do to question their excellence untried. To those who want monster hogs, I commend them to the neighborhood of Hamilton.

In miscellaneous articles, the show was good. A general variety of household manufactures, and of Canadian make, and agricultural implements were on the ground. The Scotch iron plow is greatly used there, and a very favorite instrument too, with many of the farmers although our Yankee plows are working in upon them strongly. If the criterion of excellence be in the plowing itself; for the work at the plowing match was all performed with these Scotch plows, then they are unsurpassed, *for I never saw such good plowing any where* as at Hamilton. There were some twenty competitors in the plowing match. Every piece, a quarter acre each, was done in first-rate style; and almost every furrow was as straight for twenty rods, as a line could be drawn. If we could have such plowing matches as that, instead of the abortive things usually attempted and called such, at our cattle shows, there might be some good in them.

Of grain of all kinds, the show was the best I ever saw. There were probably five hundred bushels of wheat, barley, oats, peas, corn, hemp and flax seed, exhibited. The Canada Land Company, offered \$100 for the best twenty-five bushels winter wheat, which brought numerous competitors. Some of the samples weighed 63 lbs. to the bushel, and produced upwards of forty bushels per acre. There are many large and excellent wheat growers in Canada. Numerous sacks of hops were also there, of fine quality; an article unknown in our State cattle shows, and which might be advantageously exhibited. There were also the usual variety of roots, and field and garden productions of excellent quality, and many beautiful and tempting specimens of fruits and flowers, showing that our neighbors are in the high road of progress in the luxurious and ornamental, as well as in the more strictly useful, productions. Added to these were numberless articles of fancy work, embroidery, paintings; indeed, pretty much all the gimcrackery that appears at our shows, and at the getting up of which the Canadians appear quite as perfect as ourselves.

Tedious as I am, I must not omit the dairy. There was a grand show of cheese, for Canada, although this is an article that has hitherto been little attended to in that region; but I am happy to add, that the show of butter would have been creditable anywhere. The Stilton cheeses of Mr. Parsons, of Guelph, were much admired; and when I cut the fine one which he presented me, you shall

be duly advised of its quality. [Please to send us a piece, that we may judge for ourselves.—ED.]

The morning of the second day opened as wet and unhappily as the first, but the people were all astir, and in good spirits. The Governor General had arrived on the previous day, and was to be on the show ground, after hearing the various addresses, from the different deputations of councils, societies, &c., &c., which were to wait upon him; for these Canadians, be it understood, are rather punctilious and ceremonious to their rulers, as all good and loyal subjects should be. The people therefore assembled in greater numbers than before, in defiance of continual rain and increased mud and mire, and the show ground by twelve o'clock contained several thousands; even ladies in carriages encountered the storm. Soon the Governor General, the Earl of Elgin, arrived accompanied by his Countess, Lady Elgin, and her sister, together with his official family, in carriages. Lord Elgin has an agreeable and active appearance, reminding me of our friend Gardiner G. Howland, Esq., of your city; is about forty years of age, and an accomplished man; quite an agriculturist at home upon his estates in Scotland, and very well versed, as I afterwards found, in the practical agriculture of the day. He ascended the stand and with the assembled multitude, listened to an excellent practical address from Mr. Thompson, the President of the society; then came down, mounted a horse, and together with the President and several other gentlemen, rode over the ground and looked at the various animals, and articles of exhibition, many of which he examined with interest, and at his departure, the show ended in a general breaking up and dispersion of spectators, competitors and stock, who exhibited altogether as draggled and *melting* an appearance, as so joyous and otherwise agreeable an occasion could permit.

In the evening, a grand dinner was served up in a building erected for the purpose, in the Court House Square, at which nearly or quite a thousand persons were present, the President of the society in the chair. The Governor General, the Chief Justice of the Province, and many other official dignitaries were present; and at the commencement of the toasts, Lady Elgin and several other ladies came in, and took their seats by the side of the tables, and remained till the feast was ended. Appropriate toasts were drunk, and numerous excellent speeches made, among which were two remarkably good ones by Lord Elgin, showing him to be a man of excellent sense, tact, observation, talent, and humor. "The New York State Agricultural Society, and our friends from that State," were toasted by the President, and received with great warmth of expression by the company, at which the band struck up "Yankee Doodle," with remarkable emphasis and unction, indicating that our efforts at agricultural improvement are heartily recognised among themselves. As no other New Yorker was present, the toast was responded to, after the fashion, by your humble servant, who felt that in the welcome he received, our own society has a strong, an honest, and a hearty co-laborer in our Canadian brethren.

At twelve o'clock, after a joyous, patriotic, sometimes noisy and uproarious, but altogether a



decorous sitting of some six hours, the President called on a gentleman present, to sing their grand national Anthem, of "God save the Queen," which was performed in capital style, the company standing, and all joining in its magnificent and spirit-stirring chorus. The company then adjourned with a health to its next social meeting.

On the subsequent day, the premiums were awarded, and the election of officers took place, of whom our excellent friend, the Hon. Adam Fergusson is President, and the place for the meeting of 1848, was appointed at Coburg. L. F. A.

#### LETTERS OF R. L. ALLEN.—No. 1.

ONE sees and learns but little of farming in the hurried by-path travelling in the rail cars and steamboats of the present day. The passengers generally found on the route, are anything but agricultural in their pursuits or conversation; and the almost incredible distance passed over in twenty-four hours, more than half of which at this season of the year is done by night, would seem effectually to preclude any useful or practical observation for the benefit of agricultural readers.

We leave Jersey city, opposite New York at 5 o'clock, P. M., arrive in Philadelphia, by railroad and steamboat at 9½; leave again at 10, and reach Baltimore by railroad at 5 A. M., from which we again take the cars for Cumberland, at about 7, and reach the foot of the mountains at C., nearly 400 miles distant from New York, which we left but twenty-six hours previous. Even with the facility for rapid travelling, there are inconveniences and annoyances that render this route objectionable. The fare through New Jersey is enormously high for a great railroad route; the time of departure in Philadelphia is so soon after the regular hour for arrival, that the slightest hindrance throws the traveller over for a day. The cars between Philadelphia and Baltimore are mean and uncomfortable; and in getting into them from the ferry boat at Havre de Grace, we were drenched by a shower of water thrown into the passage way by the roofs, which the slightest attention on the part of the local hireling would have remedied. There is a petty charge by railroad at Philadelphia, for baggage exceeding 50 lbs., and this is levied between Cumberland and Brownsville, a distance of 73 miles by stage, at the rate of four cents per lb. for all baggage exceeding this amount, an exaction so enormous as to amount to gross, downright extortion. The route by stage too, is excessively dilatory, requiring nearly a day to perform the above distance over the national road; and but for feeing our driver at an immoderate rate, we should not have reached the Pittsburg boat in time, and thus should have lost an entire day, which most of those in our train were forced to submit to.

The farming properly coming under my notice on this route, was first exhibited some 20 miles beyond Baltimore. The country near the city—though here and there under high cultivation for the neighboring markets—is generally turned out to commons, and affords a scanty pasturage for the transient animals sent out to glean from it; while through the valley of the Patapsco, for an extent of nearly 20 miles, the road is so closely hemmed in by precipitous hills and cliffs on either side, as

scarcely to admit of tillage. The falls along this route afford large water power, which is occupied by thriving artisans in a continuous village of 3 or 4 miles. Beyond this, and between the Patapsco and the Potomac, the surface is undulating and the soil apparently thin. Much of what came under my observation, however, seemed to be in good cultivation; and it was not unusual to see large crops of Indian corn still remaining in shocks upon the fields where grown, followed by a very handsome growth of wheat or rye, intended for cropping the following year. This rapid succession of the grain crops, to yield well, as I am assured they do, implies a close attention to manures and thorough tillage. Lime has been largely introduced into this section of country, and its liberal use has resulted in rescuing immense bodies of land from a nearly worthless condition, and placing it in a highly productive and profitable state. More grazing, and especially the adoption of an extended sheep husbandry, in this and similar regions, would carry forward the system of renovation with all the rapidity and success of which it is capable. A few only of these useful animals meet the eye in passing; but these few showed decided evidence of good carcass and an excellent mutton sheep. The houses, farm buildings, and the general appearance of the fields, fences, and cultivation along nearly the entire railroad route, gave evidence of a thrift that implies both good crops and a good market; the latter of which is directly, and the former probably indirectly secured from the numerous manufacturing villages that have within a few years become so widely disseminated throughout Maryland.

The bottom lands on that part of the Potomac lying on our route, are not extensive, but seem to be under good management, both as meadows and tillage lands. The river itself, with its accompanying picturesque and variegated shores, affords a pleasing landscape, and is well calculated to gratify a well formed agricultural taste. The land on the Monocacy and around Frederick, was equally attractive and productive, and in this neighborhood are probably to be found some of the best and wealthiest farmers in the State.

Harper's Ferry, so highly and enthusiastically eulogized by Mr. Jefferson, for its wild and majestic scenery, strikes one on a slight observation as entitled to no extravagant commendation. The Shenandoah and Potomac, here somewhat diminutive streams—course along in a very leisurely way, each under a moderate sized but rugged hill, and as they approximate they glide into each other at an angle less than 90°. I looked in vain for grandeur and sublimity, and could hardly excite even a moderate degree of enthusiasm. In my opinion it cannot compare with the union of the Alleghany and Monongahela at Pittsburg, where the clear broad rushing stream from the north comes dashing on, and nearly at a right angle, compressing the deep, sluggish Monongahela within a few rods of its own shore. The difficulties of constructing the canal and railroad at this point, seem to have been much exaggerated; and on a slight observation they appear to be less than at Little Falls, New York, or at the Point of Rocks a few miles below. The tongue of land between the two streams is high and abrupt, and contains many good buildings



with an active population, busily engaged in other mechanical operations than the United States armory which, however, supplies a large share of the occupation of its citizens.

The following morning found us toiling up the mountains, which had been favored by quite a fall of snow, that now lay in scattered ridges through the fields and woods. They were cultivated to their tops, which here seemed neither rugged nor high. Even buildings, in close proximity, line the road to their summits. Laurel Hill, which is the last of these mountains, and seems rather a detached or isolated spur than a continuous chain, is an exception in cultivation. Its high, abrupt sides, which are surmounted by a gently winding but not steep ascent on either side, are too forbidding to have tempted the agriculturist hitherto; and they have been suffered to retain all the primitive wildness they exhibited to the eye of the youthful Washington, when he first led the hardy military pioneers across them, to vindicate the Anglo-Saxon claim to the valley of the Mississippi. What a result has followed this small beginning. Ere a century rolls around, more than 10,000,000 of that indomitable race will have become occupants of the soil then trod solely by the red man, the Spaniard, and the Gaul. This will be but the nucleus of a population yet destined to occupy a country, for its extent and uniform fertility, nowhere equalled on the face of the globe.

From the summit of Laurel Hill, in passing westward, the eye first rests on the fertile valley of the Monongahela. Apparently at our feet, but really some five miles distant, arises the pretty village of Uniontown. Around, and beyond it, as far as the vision extends, lie the green cultivated fields, or the brown-tinted forest, rising in a mingled succession of beautiful waves; and as the soft light and shadows incident to an Indian summer's sun lay over this wide-spread, billowy landscape, I thought it a combination of beauty and grandeur rarely if ever surpassed. In one of the open fields below, surrounded by a high but dilapidated paling, is shown the grave of Braddock. To this point he was brought after receiving his fatal wound near fort Du Quesne, and buried in a concealed grave in their military road, to avoid exposure to the Indians. Thus fell a rash, conceited, headstrong man, whose vanity, stupidity, and pride (too often characteristic of men in power), brought murder and devastation on the helpless frontier settlements for years succeeding.

Innumerable droves of swine filled the roads between Cumberland and Morristown. They are generally reared in the southwestern part of Pennsylvania, and driven to the former place, and there shipped on to the cars for Baltimore. They were mostly in moderate condition, and many of them what may be estimated as only good stock hogs, and in a proper state to take on fat advantageously. There is much waste in stopping at this point in the fattening of swine, as the greatest profit consists in carrying them rapidly forward to the highest point of maturity. The present leanness, however, where the animal has to be driven a long distance, is in a measure unavoidable. There is always a loss in driving a fat animal beyond his yard for slaughter.

I noticed a considerable proportion of Berkshires

among these droves, and had no idea they had made so much progress in this section. They were easily distinguishable in form and appearance, exclusive of color; and wherever they or their crosses were seen, I was sure to note good animals, generally the best in the herds, though there were a large proportion of good swine among them.

Pittsburg, Nov. 18, 1847.

#### MANAGEMENT OF HONEY BEES.—No. 15.

*Drones, their Uses, &c.*—Before I close my remarks upon the management of honey bees, without attempting to touch upon the natural history or physiology of this insect as it requires, I shall say a few words, relative to the nature and uses of *drones*, in connection with the *queen* and *workers*, which constitute the whole family of a colony of honey bees. The queen is the mother of the entire increase of every hive, and it is her sphere and duty, to deposit all the eggs, amounting to some 60,000 or 70,000 annually. She, in her wisdom, is the author of the specific number of drones necessary to a hive, and the workers, at her command, construct the proper cells for drones. They also construct all other cells, and nurse the young brood through every stage of infancy, till they are able to help themselves; and it is also their duty to gather all the stores of the colony.

The drones appear to be a superfluous legion, of no use at all; but rather a disadvantage. This class of the honey bee derive their name from their general lazy habits, spending their time in luxury, and feeding upon the stores gathered by the ever industrious workers. They are never seen to alight upon any flower, or doing anything to aid the prosperity of the colony. In one respect they are entirely different from the workers, having the liberty of entering different hives with perfect impunity, while a worker enters any hive but its own at the peril of its life. The drones are found to compare in numbers with the workers, as about one to twenty. Now, the question is, what are these apparently useless bees for? Would not our apiaries be generally benefited, could we banish these lazy drones from our hives? This may reasonably seem to be the case to one who has not become familiar with the natural history of the honey bee; but should we banish these bees from our hives, *depopulation* would speedily follow.

However mysterious the ways of animate nature may appear, nothing is created in vain. Nature, in order to ensure her legitimate objects of fructification, is ever profuse, often far exceeding the positive requirements of the case, as we may view it; but, after all, nature is right, and we are wrong. Look for instance, to the fructifying farina of the tassel of maize, that contains a thousand times the quantity that is necessary to give birth to the ears that brace each stalk around. The capacious and precarious winds that are commissioned to waft this farina to its destiny, are not to be relied upon, hence the vast superabundance that nature has provided to render fertility sure. Not unlike this, is the legion of drones that lazily hang around our hives; and where a thousand exist, nine hundred and ninety-nine are perfectly useless, save upon the same principle of superabundance as shown forth above. The only object for which drones are brought into exist-



ence, is the *impregnation of the queen*. This is always done high on the wing, and when once effected, it is operative for an entire season.

The drones appear with the commencement of the swarming season. The first swarms go off with the old queen, whose impregnation is effectual from the last season, and for the prosperity of such swarms, no drones are needed; but not so with the young queens, that sally forth with after swarms. If there were no drones about the apiary, the hives would soon become entirely depopulated. It is of no consequence whether there be drones in every hive; for if there be one hive out of six, that contains them, it is probable that she would become prolific.

On the second or third day, after entering her new habitation, the queen takes an aerial flight, in search of drones, and having effected her object, returns to her domicile, and does not again leave until the following spring, when she goes off with the first swarm, lays the foundation of a successor to her sovereignty, and winds up her career in old age and death. In most species of winged insects, impregnation is effected, while *on the wing*, consequently this theory is plausible in itself; but when we take into consideration, that the drones *disappear*, as soon as the swarming season is past, our doubts ought to be entirely removed, if any exist. The drones, by a natural instinct, are ever flitting aloft, high on the wing in the vicinity of the apiary, with no apparent object; hence, when the queen sallies forth, she cannot miss the object of her excursion. Did a less number of drones exist, she would, perhaps, be frustrated in her object, and the colony, or family of bees be annihilated in consequence thereof.

The destruction of drones is effected as soon as there is no further necessity for them, which is at the end of the swarming season. This fact is strong proof of the object of their existence, as above stated. They are put out of the way by force, the workers *clipping their wings*, and casting them out of the hives. Perchance, some hives may permit the drones to exist till late in the season, for some purpose known only to themselves; but in general, they are destroyed at the termination of swarming.

T. B. MINER.

Ravenswood, L. I., January, 1848.

#### THE COTTON TRADE.

PROFESSOR C. F. McCAY, of the University of Georgia, in the December No. of that sterling periodical, *Hunt's Merchants' Magazine*, thus estimates the cotton crop of 1847, in the United States:

New Orleans and Texas, . . .	1,050,000	Bales.
Mobile, . . . . .	425,000	"
Florida, . . . . .	155,000	"
Georgia, . . . . .	245,000	"
South Carolina, . . . . .	350,000	"
Other places, . . . . .	25,000	"
	2,250,000	
The demand for 1848 he estimates thus:—		
Wants of the United States, . .	440,000	"
do Great Britain, . . . . .	1,400,000	"
do in France of Am. Cot., . . .	300,000	"
Other exports from U. S. and Eng'd,	370,000	"
	2,510,000	"

By comparing the supply and demand, it will be seen that they promise to be nearly the same. Prices may, therefore, be expected to be near their average rate, neither high nor low. If they should fall below this at any time, the increased consumption, with the present diminished stocks, would immediately bring up prices; while the experience of the last year shows that they cannot be kept higher without stopping the English factories, and thereby decreasing the consumption below the probable supplies. The prospects of the planter are good. A fair crop at fair prices is better for him than a large crop at low prices, or a short crop at high prices. The golden mean is better either than abundance or scarcity.

#### ICE HOUSES.

SINCE ice has been regarded an article of necessity almost as much as a luxury, during the enervating and oppressive heats of our long summers, so much has been written on the construction of ice houses, it may be presumed that but little can be said on the subject which is new. We still remain unaltered in our opinion (see p. 280, of our fourth volume), that the success of keeping ice depends entirely on a dry atmosphere, thorough drainage, and free, uninterrupted ventilation. We condemn the practice of constructing any part of the main chamber, or receptacle for the ice, below the surface of the ground, or of attempting to screen the roof of the house from the sun by the planting of trees. It will be remembered that we have already remarked that shade trees attract moisture, and that moisture melts ice ten times as fast as a hot wind or its exposure to the sun. Neither do we approve of the sides and back of the ice house being of earth, as that is moist too; and, instead of preserving the ice, as is often believed, it has a tendency to cause it to melt. An ice house, then, may be placed in an open, airy situation, on the bank of a lake or stream, or any other convenient spot, above the level of the ground, with good drainage and perfect ventilation. If well filled with solid blocks of ice, cut out of as large dimensions as convenient—for the larger they are the better they keep—these are all the essentials requisite to ensure complete success. As a proof of this, we have only to refer our readers to the buildings on Rockland Lake, near the west bank of the Hudson, and the old Congregational meeting house, at Wenham Lake, between Ipswich and Salem, in Massachusetts. These buildings are all of wood, lined with sawdust or tan bark, and standing high and entirely above the ground. It is the same with the large public ice houses in this city.

The best, cheapest, and safest mode of constructing an ice house for this country, is, to make a wooden frame, with posts about a foot thick and six or eight feet high, and then to plank up inside and out, filling the space between with sawdust, tan bark, or pulverized charcoal, over which a roof should be built with a pitch of at least 45°, made of rough slabs, small saplings, or other materials, and finally well thatched with straw of a thickness of twelve inches to a foot and a half. Whether the soil be porous or not, we would construct a plank or slab floor, about a foot above the ground, sufficiently open to admit a free passage of



all the melted ice. Beneath the floor, a ditch may be dug, running the entire length of the house, and leading to a lower level, perhaps of the adjoining lake or neighboring stream; or, instead of this

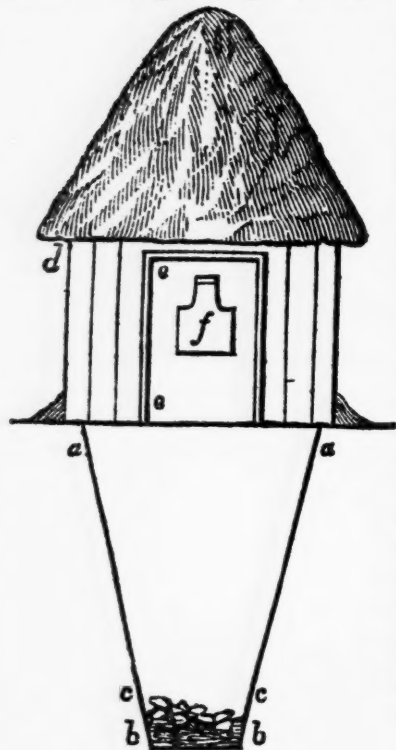


FIG. 5.

## EXPLANATION.

*a, a, b, b, c, c,* Ditch or drain, partially or entirely filled with rubble or loose stones.

*a, d,* Planking of the main body of the house.

*e, e,* Entrance door.

*f,* Trap door.

Preparatory to filling the ice house, the floor should be covered with a bed of straw about a foot thick for the ice to rest upon. The operation of storing may commence as early in the season as the thickness of the ice will admit. The blocks may be sawed out about two feet square, and laid up like masonry, in a solid mass, impenetrable to the sun and air; and when the house is filled, the ice should be carefully covered up with a thick coating

as they are thrown in, and thus make the whole into a compact mass.

For the benefit of our readers, we give the following plan for the construction of ice houses, from Fortune's China, which confirms in a measure, the principles as advocated above. The trees in our engraving are not designed as requisite for the perfection of the plan, but are only added by the artist to give effect to the scene.

On the left bank of the Ning-po River, proceeding upwards from the town and forts of Chinghai, and in various other parts in the north of China, I have met with these ice houses. When I inspected them for the first time, in 1843, their construction and situation differed so much from what I had been accustomed to consider the essentials of an ice house at home, that I had great doubts of their efficiency; but at the present time, which is the end of August, 1844, many of these houses are yet full of ice, and seem to answer the end most admirably. You are probably aware, from my former descriptions of the country, that the town of Ning-po is built in the midst of a level plain, from 20 to 30 miles across, [in latitude 30° N., or about the same parallel as that of New Orleans.] These ice houses stand on the river sides, in the centres of this plain, completely exposed to the sun—a sun, too, very different in its effect from what we experience in England—clear, fierce, and burning—which would try the efficiency of our best English ice houses, as well as it does the constitution of an Englishman in China.

The bottom of the ice house is nearly on a level with the surrounding fields, and is generally about 20 yards long by 14 broad. The walls, which are built with mud and stone, are very thick, 12 feet in height, and are, in fact, a kind of embankment rather than walls, having a door through them on one side, and a kind of sloping terrace on the other by which the ice can be thrown into the house. On the top of the walls or embankment, a tall span roof is raised, constructed of bamboos thickly thatched with straw, giving the whole an appearance exactly resembling an English haystack. And this is the simple structure which keeps ice so well during the summer months, under the burning sun of China! The Chinaman with his characteristic ingenuity, manages also to fill his ice house in a most simple way, and at a very trifling expense.

Around the house he has a small flat, level field, which he takes care to overflow in winter before the cold weather comes. It then freezes, and furnishes the necessary supply at the door. Again, in spring these same fields are plowed up, and planted with rice; and any water which comes from the bottom of the ice house is conveyed into them by a drain constructed for the purpose. Of course here, as in England, the ice is carefully covered up with a thick coating of straw



CHINESE ICE HOUSES.—FIG. 6.

of sawdust, or straw. In filling the house, if it be inconvenient to saw the ice into exact blocks, to match and lay up smooth within, like mason work, the lumps may be beaten down with heavy mallets,

when the house is filled. Thus the Chinamen, with little expense in building his ice house, and an economical mode of filling it, manages to secure an abundant supply for preserving his fish during the hot summer months. This, I believe, is the



only, or at least the principal purpose to which it is applied in this country, and never for cooling wine, water, or making ices, as we do in Europe.

It is now, I think, a question whether we could not build ice houses at less expense, and more efficient, upon the Chinese plan than upon the old underground system common in England.

I have since had frequent opportunities of testing the qualities of the Chinese ice house, both at Ning-po and also at Chusan and Shanghai, and I have found that it answers the purpose admirably. The winter of 1844-5 was unusually mild in this part of China; little or no ice was formed on the ponds and canals, and of course the ice houses could not be filled; but many of them contained large quantities which had been laid up the year before, and by this means the market was supplied with ice, which had been in store, at least a year and a half.

#### SWINE.—No. 1.

ALTHOUGH we have bred, reared, and fattened hundreds of pigs, and written many an essay upon them, we must confess that we perfectly detest the sight of a hog, unless he be of a particularly fine breed, and is kept in good condition, and in his proper place. Another thing, we do not and have not for years eaten the fat part of pork, and rarely the most delicate parts of the lean, for we believe it positively unhealthy, and more particularly so during hot weather; and for this reason it was unquestionably wisely prescribed by Moses, who says:—"And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you—ye shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcase."

It has been repeatedly proved by accurate experiments, that pork and the fat of all kinds of meat, as well as lard and butter, are difficult of digestion; and we believe that they are often the direct cause of cutaneous and scorbutic diseases, scrofula and fever. Beef, mutton, and poultry are much more healthy and nutritious than pork, and should take the place of it in our food. But the laws of Moses, Mahomed, the Hindoos, and our own humble opinion we fear will have little weight with the public in our day. Swine are reared in immense numbers in America, and will continue to be fattened and eaten for generations to come. This being the case, the only thing for us to do, is to point out the best kinds for the farmer, and give him such information as may be serviceable in breeding, rearing, fattening, and marketing them.

*Breed.*—We know few subjects on which there is more twaddle and humbug annually written, than on that of the breed of swine. There is in reality but ONE truly original fine breed, and that is, the Chinese. All other breeds, as they are termed, of any particular value, are merely crosses of the Chinese on the wild hog, or the large, coarse domestic

hog of the country. We wish our readers to remember this; they will then have a correct starting point, and know the origin of all the improvements in breeding swine.

*The Chinese.*—These vary somewhat in shape and size, and are of various colors—white, gray, sandy, blue, dark copper, and jet black, with a greater or less mixture in spots of these different colors, produced unquestionably by crossing one with the other. The dark copper, commonly called the Siamese pigs, we have generally found the hardest, most muscular, and best shaped. The pure white are often larger, but not of so good a constitution; and their pork is usually more oily and gross than the Siamese.

The following is a good portrait of such of the Chinese as are commonly imported into this country. We have often seen and bred much finer specimens, however, and are told by our friends, who have long resided in China that the best breeders there bestow great attention and study on this subject, and are particularly choice in their animals; but that it is extremely difficult to get these, and when obtained it is only by special favor of a Mandarin or some high public functionary. Those like Fig. 7, can be seen



A CHINESE SOW.—FIG. 7.

running about the streets of Canton, and are such as are generally put on board American ships for stores. We are thus particular that our readers may understand this subject fully. But the crosses of even the ugliest sway back and pot-bellied Chinese that can be found, on the common coarse slab-sided swine of the country, prove of great benefit, particularly in the second and third generation. These are frequently found in the neighborhood, and had we not witnessed the great improvement made by this cross, we should not have believed it possible to effect it with such unpromising materials.

*Characteristics of the Chinese Pig.*—The best of the Siamese or Chinese breed of swine, have a fine head and snout with the face somewhat dishd; small, upright ears; compact, thick, deep carcass; large hams and shoulders; short limbs with delicate



feet; fine hair; thin, smooth skin; quick growth, with great aptitude to fatten at any age; and sweet, delicate meat. Added to these good qualities they possess a docile disposition; and will thrive and keep fat on less food, and that of the coarsest kind, than any other breed. Thus high bred they are rather delicate animals, susceptible of cold, shy breeders, and not very good nurses. They are consequently not so profitable a breed for the farmer as their crosses. For his stock hogs he wants an animal of larger size, stronger constitution, hardier, more active, and yet thrifty, quick to mature, and reasonably fine in all its points. Of such breeds as we consider best for the farmer, and which have found most favor in our country, we shall treat in our next.

We wish to observe here, that we are indebted to the courtesy of Messrs. Lea & Blanchard of Philadelphia, for the cut used in the preceding page, and have several more of theirs on hand which will be introduced hereafter. They are from the recent re-publication of "The Pig," a treatise on the breeds, management, feeding, and medical treatment of swine, by William Youatt; a highly valuable and entertaining work, which we recommend every farmer to possess at once, as he cannot but be highly benefited by its perusal.

#### HINTS FOR THE SOUTH.

See an article from Mr. J. S. Peacocke, of East Feliciana, La., Vol. vi., page 340, of the *Agriculturist*.

Since you say "*a full reply*" to the inquiries of the article above alluded to will be given hereafter, it is perhaps superfluous in me to add anything; but a desultory remark or two, might perhaps be indulged in.

Mr. Peacocke says:—"We have to buy our own meat, both for our tables and our negroes." Who has to? Why, *the South*, according to your correspondent. Col. Fluker, and a few others of the "*most enterprising*," are exceptions; but they raise "not a tithe of what they use."

I wish Mr. Peacocke would make a tour throughout Mississippi, before he writes again, for he misrepresents us greatly. More than three fourths, I suppose five sixths, of the meat consumed in Mississippi, is raised within her own territory. In Louisiana, leaving out New Orleans, I presume they raise about three fifths of what they use. There is a considerable neighborhood of worn-out land in East Feliciana, and some of the thickest settlements of large plantations on the Mississippi, and the lower bayous, where they depend mostly upon the market for their provisions. But they do not constitute the "South." In this part of the country, which is the heaviest cotton region of this State, except around and between Natchez and Vicksburg, there is scarcely a good planter who does not raise his meat.

I have some acquaintance with farming in the West, and it is my opinion this is the best region for the raising of pork and beef, I have ever seen in the United States. If I had your correspondent here, I could show him on a very small plantation, two or three hundred gruntings in a corn field, where was left some weeks ago, at least three hundred bushels of scattered corn, seventy-five acres very

heavily stocked with peas, ten acres of turnips, and a mass of pumpkins "too numerous to mention;" and it is confidently expected, that after a while, some of them will do to eat. And I assure your correspondent, that I am far from being "one of the most enterprising" in the way of meat raising, or anything else. A few days ago, one of my neighbors was saying he had more peas in the field, than all his stock could possibly eat before plowing time, a very common thing here; he had not yet put his hogs on them, for the reason that he thought they were *doing better* on acorns and sweet potatoes. "Buy our own meat," indeed! Come and take a cut of choice ham and bacon with us, and judge for yourself.

As to a recipe for hog raising, I can give a short one, not very scientific, but for practical purposes it will answer. Raise plenty of corn, peas, pumpkins, turnips, peaches (the best and cheapest summer food), and have a grass lot or two, with shade trees and water in it, for your hogs to run in. And lastly, if they run out in the mast, keep them well counted.

But "our negroes kill off the pigs, as fast as they appear." Well, ours don't. And if you will give yours as much meat as they can eat three times a day, I'll go their security that they will not either.

As to "negro clothing," I will just remark, I have written in times past and published in Mississippi, not less I suppose than fifty newspaper articles in favor of making bagging, blankets (comforters), and negro clothing at home. But it is *innovation*, and therefore wrong. Though I do not recollect to have seen an adverse argument attempted.

"I should like to know what is the best method of taking care of stock, which have to depend on what nature provides for them."

As to this matter, I would ask what kind of stock? Horses do very well with corn, oats, hay, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes. Let them be well stabled, and run in pasture occasionally. Cattle should run in a winter pasture adjacent to the pumpkin field, so they can be fed along the fence with pumpkins, hauled and thrown over. Use turnips in the same way. Let them run in the pea field, a day or two at a time, in dry weather, so that they will not injure the land by tramping upon it. Pea vines and sweet potatoe vines, saved like hay, make good winter food. Let sheep run in the pea field and grass lots. So much for your correspondent; now let me see you, Mr. Allen, and set you straight on a point or two.

"Apples, pears, cherries, peaches, &c., we believe do not well succeed in the latter," the Mississippi bottoms. You never made a greater mistake. There is not the least difference between the bottom and hill land, with regard to apples, peaches, and cherries, except the bottom is generally the richest. The two former succeed well, very well indeed. And as to peaches, the best, decidedly the best place in the United States to raise peaches, is the alluvial land of the Mississippi, and Yazoo. The next best place in the United States for peaches, is the hill country of Mississippi and Louisiana. As to the "&c.," I suppose you will allow me to understand you to mean quinces, plums, apricots,



figs, and nectarines. And in regard to each one of these, I assure you, sir, I know of no soil, nor climate better adapted to their culture, than right here on the banks of the beautiful Yazoo.

Yazoo, Miss., Nov. 19, 1847. R. ABBEY.

In our remarks alluded to above, we had particular reference to the *delta* from East Feliciana, to the mouth of the Mississippi. When we last visited that country, in 1842, we were very particular in our inquiries as to the growth of the pear, apple, peach, cherry, and quince; but could not learn that these fruits had then been cultivated at all in that region, with marked success. Nor did we in our rambles up and down the banks of the river, see growing anything more than now and then a stray tree of the kind, in and about a planter's garden; and these we were informed did not produce fruit of any account. But perhaps we were unfortunate in our observations and inquiries, and should be obliged if our correspondent, or any of our readers can inform us, what localities of the *bottom lands* in and below East Feliciana, produce good fruit of the above named varieties. In respect to the uplands of the South, we have long known that they produced the finest kinds of northern fruits; and as proof of this, our correspondent will find in an article which we wrote in Vol. 1, page 101, of the *Agriculturist*, entitled "Tour on the Mississippi," the following sentence: "Except a few varieties of the apple, which we have no doubt may be acclimated, *all sorts of fruit and vegetables that we have at the north, flourish here in the greatest perfection*, besides many known only in tropical climates." We also know that peaches are now raised in large quantities in the vicinity of Vicksburg, and other places in Mississippi, to be consumed at home or sent to the New Orleans market. Twenty years ago, when we first visited Alabama, we found an enterprising northern friend, busily engaged in setting out apples, pears, &c., which he afterwards informed us flourished remarkably well there. As to figs, having eaten many a luscious score of them at the South, plucked from the trees with our own hands, we could not but know that these grow well there. Apricots and nectarines, we do not recollect about.

#### THE NEXT SHOW AND FAIR OF THE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

WE beg leave to say, in order to avoid all invidious remark, that the suggestions below are entirely our own; and are written without consultation with any one whatever. They are based solely on an intimate knowledge of Buffalo, and its vicinity; and suggest nothing more than what is due to the agriculture of that highly flourishing, and enterprising section of the State.

Speculation is already on foot, as to the best location for the next annual Cattle Show and Fair, of the New York State Agricultural Society. We have heard several places mentioned, to which there could be no objection, provided they had not already enjoyed the benefit of one show; they ought, therefore, to wait patiently their turn before laying claim to another; for we hold that there is no special *monopoly* in this matter. The society was established for the *general benefit* of the agricultural population; every section, therefore, which can get up

the proper *accommodation*, and is easily accessible by river, or by canal and railroad, is entitled to its turn in the benefit of these shows. As yet, Western New York has only had *one* show, which was in 1843, at Rochester, seventy-five miles east of Buffalo. Eastern New York has had *three* shows, viz., at Albany, Poughkeepsie, and Saratoga; and Central New York the same number, viz., Syracuse, Auburn, and Utica.

Now if we may be permitted to name a place, we say that Buffalo ought to have its turn next. It is contiguous to several of the largest and richest counties of the State, populated by a highly intelligent and enterprising class of farmers, who, in addition to growing the choicest samples of grain, are extensively engaged in productions of the dairy and in the rearing the best of improved stock of all kinds. We do not believe any town in the State can draw together so numerous and fine a show of stock and dairy products, as Buffalo. Extensive nurseries also have long been established there, and flowers, fruits, and vegetables, are abundant in its neighborhood. But to assist in the number and variety of the show of these, it would have Canada, and the whole lake region to Chicago; and we have no doubt, that there would be contributions from the Ohio River and its tributaries, as far south as Cincinnati. Manufactures are also abundant in the town and its vicinity, and a fair display of these might be anticipated.

Buffalo has a population of *over thirty-five thousand* inhabitants, and abounds with the best of hotels; all strangers, therefore, visiting the place upon such an occasion, would be sure to be well accommodated, and at reasonable charges. Then the facilities of getting there and back, are unsurpassed by any city in the State, save New York. It has several excellent McAdam roads, radiating considerable distances into the surrounding country; two railroads, one of which connects it with, and is the great thoroughfare to Albany; also canal, river, and lake navigation. What place now in the State combines superior advantages to Buffalo, for a large and varied agricultural display? Let the show be located there the first week in September, when the weather is almost certain to be fine, and we do not hesitate to say, that it will prove the best and most productive to the society, of any it has yet held.

But whatever the decision is in this matter, we hope it may not again be located off the great river, or canal, and railroad highway, between New York and Buffalo. It was tried once at Saratoga, and proved a miserable failure; disappointing nearly every one present by its meagre, and in some departments, most contemptible display. The location of these shows ought to be decided upon, by the Executive Committee. The Constitution has given them the power to do this, and that power they will be likely to exercise in a disinterested manner and for the *sole benefit* of the society. A popular meeting may sometimes get packed for a particular purpose, or it may be influenced by a few interested and active hotel keepers and speculators in the probable profits of a certain location for the show and fair; it behoves every member, therefore, to watch carefully over the Agricultural Society meetings, annually held at Albany, lest they should come under some such improper influence.



### CULTURE OF THE GRAPE IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

For the successful cultivation and abundant production of nearly all the fruits which more properly belong to temperate climates, the United States stand pre-eminent. In no part of the world, are apples found so abundantly as in this country; and *American apples* are celebrated throughout Northern Europe. In no part of France, or even Belgium, the country of pears, can that fruit be shown in so great perfection or abundance as in the vicinity of Boston, and the northern sea board. And even in England, the pear is so rare, that those of the Chaumantelle variety, grown in the island of Jersey, are sold in London, for five guineas per hundred. Peaches are luxuries found only upon the tables of the wealthy in northern Europe; and are mostly carefully cultivated on walls. Yet here, on Long Island, and further south, they are grown as easily as cabbages; and immense quantities of most delicious varieties, are sold during the season in New York market, at fifty cents to one dollar per bushel. Yet notwithstanding the great abundance of these fruits, and of the various kinds of melons, we are decidedly behind Europe, in the cultivation of the grape. This is doubtless owing in a great measure, to natural causes; but there is also a deficiency of well adapted experiments in those climates, which approach very nearly in temperature to those of the south of France and Italy.

There are many varieties of the grape indigenous to this country, yet with the exception of the Isabella and Catawba, they are nearly all worthless; and among the many varieties of native grapes, which are brought forward as something superior, we have never found one whose merits would entitle it to a place by the side of the Isabella and Catawba. The qualities of the Isabella are well known; with us the Catawba is its superior, and we have had specimens grown by a vine trained upon an old apple tree, and without pruning or cultivation, which would compare favorably with the black Hamburg. This variety will not, however, answer at Boston, or in many other situations; its ripening requires a longer season, and it is also more liable than the Isabella to the attacks of the rose bug. Between these two grapes and some of the foreign varieties, hybrids could doubtless be produced, which would possess the hardy character of the former, with the delicious qualities of the latter. In the production of these, there is a wide field open for experiment among amateurs of leisure; and I hope they will occupy it, for the pre-eminently delicious qualities of the grape render it particularly worthy of their attention. For our present purpose, however, we must rely upon the varieties which already exist, and which are produced in abundance in Europe.

I am aware that many of these varieties have been obtained by Southern gentlemen, and planted with care; and yet, notwithstanding the utmost attention, rot and mildew have been invariably their attendants. These experiments have, however, been made near the Southern sea board, where the atmosphere is continually charged with moisture from the large tracts of low and swampy lands, which exist there in every direction. I have never heard of these varieties being fairly tested, on the

high land in the interior; on the slopes of the Alleghanies, where the air is dry, clear, and bracing; and where one would suppose that no mildew nor rot could approach the fruit. Even at Aiken, only one hundred miles from Charleston, I was much struck with the dryness of the air, and its adaptation to the culture of the grape.

It is not, however, a dry air only that is necessary for the culture of the grape; the soil is an important requisite, and I deem our rich, retentive, alluvial virgin soil, by no means beneficial, if not positively injurious. A soil that has been repeatedly cultivated and turned up to the influence of the sun, or one that is slaty and porous, drawing the sun to the roots and carrying the moisture from them, is, even with a moderate degree of fertility, one of the very best. Of this latter character is much of the soil in the vineyards in France and Germany; and in these countries I have frequently seen hills, so steep that I could scarcely climb them, and whose soil was composed mainly of slaty stones, yet covered with vines to the very summits, and producing annually large crops of perfect fruit. I am inclined to think that there exists in our new and virgin soil, or rather perhaps arises from it, a miasmatic influence as poisonous to fruits as to human life; and this perhaps produces the mildew, which it is so difficult to drive from the grape and gooseberry, in the open air. I am rather strengthened in this opinion, by the fact that in England, where the soil, by repeated cultivation, has been purged of this miasma, the gooseberry arrives at great perfection, with scarcely a taint of mildew; and the black Hamburg grape also ripens well in the southern counties, in the open air. There it is, that the atmosphere rather than the soil is impregnated with moisture; for it is questionable whether more rain falls in England than in this country. There it rains gently, here the clouds *pour* forth their contents.

Moisture in the soil is doubtless one of the exciting causes of this miasma; but there are others, and a whole section must be purged of them before any particular locality therein can be made suitable for grape culture. Our Northern States have been longer and more highly cultivated generally than the Southern, and there is less alluvial character in the soil; thus it is that the Isabella rarely rots here on the vine, while at the South, I am informed, it very frequently does. I am thus inclined to think that the grape can never be successfully and extensively grown on the Southern sea board, until the whole country shall have been thoroughly drained and cultivated for at least a quarter of a century. The case is different, however, with the mountain slopes of the interior, where a large section of country can be found free from any of these miasmatic influences.

The special object of this article is, to encourage the culture of the grape in these sections of the South, from the Gulf of Mexico to the northern line of Virginia. It is only by repeated experiment, that the adaptation of any soil or climate to a particular variety of fruit, can be ascertained, and I hope some one at the South, or rather many in different parts of the South, will give this fruit that careful attention which success requires; and if the feasibility of its extensive culture there should once be satisfactorily decided, I am satisfied



that they will deem their labor very slight indeed, compared with the benefits and pleasure resulting from fine crops of delicious grapes.

We have growing under glass, about one hundred and thirty foreign varieties, and when they shall all have fruited, we may be able to present some variety eminently adapted for open culture. With our present experience, however, I think that the best five or six varieties for open culture at the South, are the black Hamburg, golden Chasselas, white sweetwater, Zinfandel, and the Frontignans. The two former are specially adapted to open culture as the black Hamburg ripens well against walls in the south of England, and the golden Chasselas in the vicinity of Paris. The Frontignans, I have seen growing very luxuriantly in the south of France, near Montpellier and Avignon, in some apparently low localities.

I have hastily thrown together these hints, with the hope that some of your Southern readers may be induced to take up the subject. My opinions of the cause of rot and mildew may be deemed mere speculation; but I think that they are in some measure warranted by familiar facts. Should any one be induced to make any experiments in grape culture, I hope the results may be communicated to the public through your pages.

S. B. PARSONS.

*Flushing, Long Island.*

#### YANKEE FARMING.—No. 1.

Good people all of every sort,  
Give ear unto my song;  
And if you find it wondrous short,  
It cannot hold you long.—*Goldsmith.*

*What I am and what I propose.*—I was born, reared, and still reside in A-gok-ne-quaw, one of the oldest towns in New England. Its boundaries are of unusual extent, embracing a great variety of soil, which being in the occupancy of persons of widely different minds and degrees of education, nearly every system of culture is practised here which may be found in the Northern States. This being the case, it has often occurred to me, that an exact account of the farming operations carried on at Agoknequaw—whether good, bad, or indifferent—if properly detailed, would prove no less interesting than instructive to the readers of the *Agriculturist*. Being the son of a plain, hard-working farmer, and brought up to daily toil myself, and having received no other education than the limited one acquired during the winter months at a common district school, and the occasional perusal of a book drawn from the venerable old town library, with two or three agricultural periodicals for the last few years, and some modern elementary agricultural works, I feel poorly qualified to undertake the task; but as I have frequently unsuccessfully endeavored to get those of superior minds and much better educated than myself to do it, I have at length lost all patience with them, and now make bold to hazard the attempt, trusting that the kindness of your readers will pardon all my deficiencies in carrying it into effect.

*Description of A-gok-ne-quaw.*—It is bounded on the east by the Neantik, a clear, broad, rapid river; on the south by an estuary of the sea, called Mohecana; and on the west and north by the broken

hills of Awashonk, the highest peaks of which may very properly be termed mountains. Quite a number of little streams spring from this range of hills, and take their sinuous course in different directions through the town, furnishing abundance of pure water to every farm around. Stretching along the Neantik, are wide intervals of a light, sandy soil, broken occasionally by rocky promontories; bordering the Mohecana, is a narrow strip of salt marsh; the valleys through which meander the small streams, with the exceptions of the boggy land, may be classed amongst the most fertile of meadows, and are well stored with rich peat and muck; the uplands generally are of a light gravel, varying to stiff clay, interspersed with a few cold springy hollows; while the hills are very stony, with ledges of hard shelly rock occasionally cropping out abruptly at the sides, and crowning with huge precipices the high mountain tops. Thus much for a preface and general description—now for particulars; and in giving these, in order to fully carry out my plan, it will be necessary for me to speak of persons as well as things.

*Uncle Sim.*—As I have a good deal to say about him, I shall first introduce to your readers' acquaintance, my nearest neighbor, Mr. Simeon Doolittle, whom we familiarly call "Uncle Sim." He stands full six feet high without his stockings; has sandy hair; small blue eyes, one of which he has the habit of cocking up very oddly when looking with particular earnestness; a florid complexion; prominent, rotund belly; and weighs about two hundred and seven pounds. He is industrious, economical, and kind hearted; tells a good story, and is fond of a joke, provided he himself is not the subject of it; but he is careless in much of his farm management; intensely prejudiced and obstinate; and occasionally is very irascible, especially when he has taken a little too much hard cider. Still he may be called a good neighbor; and though we sometimes have a little sparring, which I honestly wish could be avoided, yet upon the whole, we manage to get along pretty comfortably together. Notwithstanding he is some twenty years my senior, he always treats me with deference and attention; rather courts my society, and many is the social chat we have when we meet in the field, or interchange visits at each other's houses during the long winter evenings, regaling our farming talk over a bountiful dish of apples and nuts.

*His Farm.*—This is of moderate size, though of a mixed character; embracing poor and rich meadow, some good upland, with an inconsiderable quantity of hill. Of course his crops are various, but of the management of them hereafter.

*His Young Stock.*—Among other products of his farm, Uncle Sim cuts a considerable quantity of bog meadow hay, a poor, watery sort of grass, which he stacks upon his upland, and fodders out upon the ground to a stock of young cattle, which have no better shelter all winter, than they can find under the lee side of the fence which surrounds the stacks. The result is, although they go into winter quarters in tolerable condition, they come out miserably poor, requiring half the summer to recruit; and I doubt whether they gain an ounce per head from the middle of November to the first



of May, the usual foddering time for stock among us in this latitude.

*His Steers*—Among his young stock, are quite a number of steers, which he rears and breaks to the yoke; doing what work he wants with them, and then turns off for whatever he can get, the spring they come three years old. I have often endeavored to persuade Uncle Sim, that the way he manages his young stock, there could be no profit in raising it; that the work he got out of his ill fed, young things, was more trouble to him than it was worth; and that I would rather have one pair of strong, well fed cattle, than the whole of them. But my opinion was all in vain to him, and he ever combatted it with great obstinacy, till the following incident somewhat staggered his faith in his own management.

*How his Team of Steers, got stuck with a Log in the Snow.*—Crossing my fields one clear, cold winter morning, just after a deep fall of snow, I heard a terrible hul-la-ba-loo, in a chorus of three voices, rising up from a hollow between some woodland and a gentle hill on my neighbor's premises, of "whoa, haw here, Bright—gee up there, Buck and Golden, come all on ye together now," followed by the peculiar "w-h-r-r-r," of our Yankee teamsters, mingled with the crack of whips, and now and then a shrill yell, which almost set my hair on end. Curiosity prompted me to run instantly to the top of the hill, to see what was the matter, when I found Uncle Sim, up to his knees in a stout pair of cow hide boots, drawn over his butternut colored cloth trousers, vest and coat to match, a linsey-woolsey frock over all, his head covered in a racoon fur cap, with the tail wagging gaily down over his shoulders, and flourishing a long whip which he applied without stint to his team, of seven yoke of steers, and an old mare for a leader, endeavoring with the aid of a couple of lads, equally well armed, to start a log which he had cut that morning and loaded on a bob sled. He had got thus far with it on his way to the saw mill, when at the first rise of ground, it unluckily stuck in the snow, and not another inch could they make it budge, notwithstanding all the joint whipping and shouting they had gone through with, in order to infuse more strength into the team. In fact, Uncle Sim's efforts to get his miserable cattle to move the log, by this time had nearly exhausted himself; for as I came up he paused in his exertions, planted his whipstalk upright in the snow, took off his fur cap, and began wiping the dripping perspiration from his brow with the sleeve of his frock, seeming to be in great trouble and perplexity.

*Our Conversation thereupon, with Hints on Stock Management and Feeding.*—"Top of the morning to you, Uncle Sim," said I, in a somewhat jeering tone, although I felt sorry for him to the very bottom of my heart; "now you see what I have so often told you, all this comes from keeping too much stock and feeding it so poorly. If"—"Now just stop will ye, and look a here, Serjeant," he replied somewhat deprecatingly, for I beg your readers to understand, that I have the honor of holding an orderly's warrant, in the second company of our town militia; "there grows the grass in the bog meadow, don't you see, and I must cut it, and when

stacked you know as well as I does, that it must be eat; wall, the old mare and colts won't touch it, nor the sheep nother, it dries up the cows from their milk, and as nothin' else will, the *steers must*." These last words he pronounced very emphatically, and then slapped his right thigh with his stout dexter, gave a sort of grunting whistle, by way of taking breath, and then looked up with a significant cock of the eye, as much as to say, "there, if that ain't a settler, then I don't know what is." "As to cutting and stacking the bog grass," I replied, "there is no objection, though you need not have bog grass at all, if you would manage your meadows as I want to have you read they do in England; but of this hereafter. What I have so often contended for is, that you should run out a couple of rough sheds from the southeast and southwest corner of your big barn, thus enclosing an ample sunny yard well protected from the winds. Under these, your young stock would find comfortable shelter from storms and cold winds, then you could stack your hay close by, get one of the new fashioned, quick working hay cutters, and cut it up fine with your corn stalks, which nearly all go to waste now, wet these up and mix a little bran or meal with them, and then feed out bountifully in troughs, and you will get a hundred pounds' growth on the steers, where you don't get an ounce now; and they will be much stronger for their winters' work. You will also make much more manure than you now do; and mixed up with other matters in the yard, it will be more valuable than that left on the uplands round the stacks, to waste away in every rain, wind, and sun. Oh, you little know what a saving and comfort it would be all round. But here comes Major Goodell, quite easily along the road now, Uncle Sim, with his famous, smart yoke of oxen, and a log on his sled larger than yours, by a quarter; so I will just invite him to stop a minute, and give you a lift. If his cattle don't start your log all alone, and take it to the top of the hill"—"If they can," said he, rather snappishly, "then I'll acknowledge beat for once in my life; and what's more, I'll give my ox goad here, with the log, new woodchuck lash at the eend on't, into the bargain; and it cost me three good night's work to braid it. No, no; they can't do no sich a thing," continued he, shaking his head and stamping violently in the snow.

*A Word about Titles and Major Goodell.*—Our friend just spoken of, received his title from being *Drum Major* of our county regiment of militia; for you must know that we are very particular in New England, to give every man his title, and if he has none in his own right, by way of keeping him from being *odd*, we take care to dub him one. To be plain *Mister*, don't go do down in this country. A man might as well be nobody; he must be distinguished somehow; it is his duty in this great, free, and enlightened republic of ours. I see you sneer a little now, Mr. Editor; but suppose the person before us, did get his title by *drumming*, has not many a man *drummed* himself up one before, and not half so *onest* either? Please to answer. But to the Major. He is a short, stubbed, little man, and shrewed a d active; and as he steps along with a high military air, he carries his head rather fiercely and well up on the top of his back, as if he had



been a hard student of astronomy ; yet never mind, he is as smart as he looks, and what is more, he always drives the fattest, and rather the finest and best pair of cattle in town, so he is not to be sneezed at.

*How the Log got out of its Difficulty.*—Coming down to the Major, I stopped him, and related Uncle Sim's dilemma, when he smiled complacently, and very readily unhitched his team; a splendid pair of Devon red cattle, with long, upturned horns; sleek, glossy hair; powerfully developed muscles; and bones so fine, that they reminded me of those of a thorough bred race horse. It was really a pleasure to look at this high bred team; for as he unhitched them from their load, they wheeled gracefully to the right, and marched into the field with the stately tread of a proud pair of highly disciplined grenadiers. Well might a man be proud to drive such a pair of cattle. Uncle Sim's team, of the old mare and seven yoke of steers, were now released from their fast sticking burden, and the Major's powerful reds hitched on in their place. Their master now patted them kindly on the back, then standing aside, gave one flourish around his head, of a small switch about three feet long, which he carried merely to guide his team, when at the single word "go," which he spoke in a quick, low tone, they instantly bent their necks to the yoke, gave a sudden twist, then a quick jump, and in less time than Uncle Sim could cock his astonished eye, they were at the top of the hill with his log. Lifting up both hands with profound amazement at this unexpected feat, he let them fall again, and then taking his ox goad, he tossed it with a whiz to the Major's feet, and said, "wall, who'd a thought it now; them is a smart pair o' cattle of your'n, and you've won that whip any how. I would'nt take three and ninepence for it, cash down on the nail—who'd a thought it—who'd a thought it. Wall, I guess there is somethin' in feed, arter all."—"Yes," I replied laughing, "and in stabling warm, and the curry comb and card, and in concentrating your force; especially when you want to start a big log—heh! Uncle Sim."

SERGEANT TELTRUE.

*FOOD FOR PREGNANT ANIMALS.*—Every animal, while pregnant, should not only be full fed, but care should be taken that the food be of a proper kind. Recollect that the growing fœtus has blood, flesh, and bones to form, as well as its mother; and therefore a greater proportion than ordinary of the constituents which go to make these, must be supplied in the food of the dam, otherwise the fœtus will suffer, and the dam also. Sugar, starch, fibrin, gluten, and the phosphates are particularly wanted; and happily all these are found in a mixture of good hay, grain of all kinds, and roots. But it is necessary that the pregnant animal be fed with the whole of each kind; for the bran alone of wheat, rye, or corn, would not be sufficient, as these contain little of gluten, fibrin, or starch.

*EXTRAORDINARY TROTting IN TANDEM.*—William S. Reed, recently trotted Grey Harry and Betsey Baker, harnessed in tandem, one mile round the Union Course, Long Island, *without a break*, in two minutes and forty-four seconds.

## MONOGRAPHS OF VARIETIES OF FRUITS.

A THOROUGH, scientific examination of the capabilities of America, for the production of fruits, is yet to be made. Very little has been attempted, and much less performed, in examining the soil of different sections of our vast domain; studying critically the effects of climate and soil, upon its productions; and tracing the history and habits of the fruits, scattered through our widely extended orchards. Indeed, I have thought it strange, that the leisure and curious research of some of our many amateur cultivators and others, should never, have produced one thorough monograph of a single fruit. Let one example be taken, as illustrative of my meaning.

The Rhode Island Greening, is a standard apple. It has gone out from the North, to the South, as far as Virginia; westward it will be found occasionally, as far down as Kentucky, and even Tennessee. It increases in abundance, as we come to the orchards of New England emigrants, until it reaches the extreme north of our territorial limits. It is thus cultivated in a range of twenty degrees of latitude, and nearly thirty of longitude. In this vast extent, it is found upon all geological formations; at various degrees of elevation, and under exceedingly diverse climates. What is the natural history of this tree, under these conditions? What is the effect of soils—of heat or cold, in different proportions—of special culture? What is its *personal* history? Who introduced it into various localities; or what class of settlers? If no one individual can be known, what remarkable trees have existed? What sports, or prodigies are known? What has been the nurseryman's experience of the various methods of *working* it? What superiority or abatement of excellence, is manifested under special circumstances? A comparison of its fruit in New England, the Middle States, the lower Western States, and the upper Western States. No enthusiastic pomologist, will ask of what use such a monograph could be. A minute study of any single variety would throw great light upon the obscurest part of pomology—the *habits* of trees. It would give more precision to the cultivation of fruits. It would afford many curious problems, or solutions of problems, in vegetable physiology.

Meanwhile, if those who have not the leisure to prepare such a work, will contribute any materials, disconnected and imperfect though they may be, they will indirectly prepare the way for some one hereafter to perform the work.

Just now the rage is for descriptions of fruit, accompanied by engravings. The first effort, of which we are informed, is that by Mr. Hoffs, of Philadelphia. To what extent it was executed we do not know. A beginning was made of a lithographic series, by Charles Elliott, of Cincinnati. One number only was issued. Boston publishes at this time, two series; Mr. Hovey editing one, and the other coming out under the superintendence of a committee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Mr. Downing, of Newburgh, is also putting through the press a similar work. At another time, it will be a pleasant task to examine the relative excellences of these costly contributions to



pomology. Could a better opportunity occur for monographs of the most thorough character?

H. W. BEECHER.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Dec. 1847.

We have the pleasure of announcing to our readers, that the Rev. Henry W. Beecher will be a regular contributor to our journal the present year. His articles will be principally on *pomology*, to which he has paid much attention. He is considered one of the best informed, and most original writers on this subject. Domestic affliction, in the loss of a promising child, and the engrossing cares of a new situation, have prevented his giving a more elaborate article for this month, as he had intended. Our readers will recollect that he has recently removed from Indiana, and is now installed as pastor of the Plymouth Church, at Brooklyn, one of the largest and most respectable, of that rapidly growing city. When a resident at the west, Mr. Beecher edited the *Indiana Farmer*, for several years, *en amateur*. The pomological articles which then appeared in that journal, were read with much interest, and very generally copied throughout the Union.

The exportation of fruit has at length grown up to no trifling item of our foreign commerce, while its consumption at home for the past few years has been greatly on the increase; it is highly proper, therefore, that more attention be given to its culture.

#### TAPLIN'S HORSE POWER.

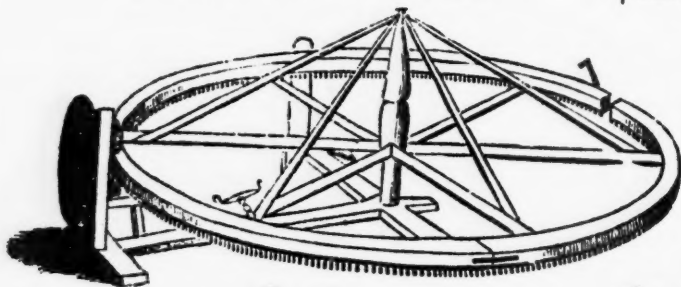


FIG. 8.

The best horse power, decidedly, with which we are acquainted, is that more commonly known among us as Taplin's. Figure 8, gives a good idea of it. It has a wooden rim or circle, from 18 to 20 feet in diameter, to which iron segments are bolted on the under side. These gear into a cog wheel, which revolving, turns a drum or pulley on the same shaft, which moves the machinery by a belt; or it may be geared on to the cog wheel by other cog wheels. The horses are attached to whiffle trees, hooked on to the arms close where they join the rim, and thus move the power as they travel round. It can be transported easily from place to place in a common farm wagon, and may be set up in twenty minutes, and taken down in half that time. It is simple in its construction, not liable to get out of order, and when so, is easily repaired. It may work in the open field, though it is better to have it under cover when stationary, especially during stormy or very hot weather.

When the team is to be attached to this power, take the pin out of the standard which keeps the rim up on a level, and lower one side of the rim to within two feet of the ground; now step a

horse over, then swing it round to the next hook for a whiffle tree and step over another horse, and so continue till as many are put on as are wanted.

For efficiency, durability, and simplicity, we prefer this power to all others. Price \$55 to \$75, according to size and quality. We recommend that size which costs highest, as the most serviceable, easiest worked, and cheapest in the end.

#### DRESSING WOUNDS.

EVERY farmer is liable to have his cattle wounded. Sometimes these wounds are dangerous from the loss of blood, or they leave unsightly swellings and scars; it is therefore highly necessary, that they should understand the best mode of dressing them.

The first thing to be done is, properly to secure the animal, so that it shall not be able to injure the operator; then the wounded parts should be carefully cleansed, and every foreign substance removed. If the wound bleeds profusely, especially if the blood flows in jets and is of a florid color, it shows that an artery is wounded, and this should be secured. The best mode to do this is, to apply a ligature to the bleeding vessel, that is, tie a small string round it if possible. If this can not be done, then take a wire about eight inches long, put one end in a round stick for a handle, bend the other end about an inch from the extremity like a hook, put this instrument in a fire and heat it to a white heat, and then sear the mouths of the bleeding vessels. This will generally stop the flow of blood at once. The parts should now be examined, and the shape

of the wound observed; then with a large needle, armed with a strong thread well twisted and waxed, take a stitch including the parts about half an inch from the edges of the wound; then tie in a bow knot. The first stitch should be taken in any angle or other definite point, so that the parts may be drawn exactly in their original position; after this, several other stitches may be taken about an inch from each other. When

they are all tied, perhaps some parts may not be properly adjusted; now untie the bow knots and draw them tighter until the edges are in opposition. Next scrape some lint from a piece of coarse linen and cover the wound, which should be secured in its situation by a proper bandage. *No other application is necessary*; for a wound bound up in its blood, and kept so without once removing the bandages till it gets well, will be cured quicker and leave a smaller scar, than in any other way. Salves and applications of all kinds, generally do more injury than good.

If there should be a difficulty in passing the ligature through the skin, a hole may first be made with a small awl. After four to six days, unless the weather be cold and unpleasant, these dressings may be removed, when generally the wound will be found perfectly healed.

**VENERABLE APPLE TREE.**—An apple tree, near Hartford, Connecticut, brought from England, and planted where it now stands *two hundred and eight years ago*, bore a small quantity of fruit the present season. The tree has only a mere shell of the trunk, with a few small green branches.



## Ladies' Department.

### HINTS TO MOTHERS.

I HAVE been very much gratified to see a portion of your columns appropriated to the contributions of the ladies; but I regret that so few competent, thorough going housewives are unwilling others should derive benefit from their experience. Any instruction in housewifery would be of more service than they imagine; for it is a lamentable fact that most young ladies have but a very superficial knowledge of housekeeping, till necessity compels them to learn. I do not believe there is any division of labor necessary for our support, which could be more benefited by good management, order, and punctuality, than that of the house; and there is none in which a judicious system would contribute more towards our happiness and comfort.

What is the reason that the daughters of some of our very best housewives, not unfrequently make improvident housekeepers, is a question I have often heard asked, but never satisfactorily answered. As far as my observation has extended, this difficulty is generally owing to their domestic education, and is of course chargeable in a great measure to the mother. In the first place, most mothers while their children are young, are obliged to perform a large share of their own work, and find it much easier, as well as more expeditious, to do it themselves, than to superintend the tardy performances of an awkward pair of little hands in their first attempts at housework. Consequently the young novice remains idle, or is constantly in school, until she loses all relish for useful employment. Others may be silly enough, although they have always been obliged to work themselves, to conceive it derogatory for a young lady even to *know how* to work; and I have known instances where the mother has labored as assiduously to prevent the necessity of her daughters taking part in the household services, as she would to preserve them from some terrible disgrace or calamity. From whichever cause the difficulty arises, the mother who willingly allows a daughter to marry with no other knowledge of housekeeping than has been acquired as a looker on, is doing her an incalculable injury, and deserves to be charged with a large share of folly and indiscretion, with half the unhappiness experienced by an ignorant young housekeeper; for it cannot be denied that much domestic discord has arisen from this very source. The young husband who had been bred to habits of order and punctuality, would feel his comfort very much abridged, if obliged to accommodate himself to the irregularity of his household affairs, if left entirely to the care of ordinary hirelings, to say nothing of the addition of expenses.

It is not necessary that a young lady should be drilled for half a dozen years in domestic service, in order to understand housekeeping; neither is it necessary that she should be deprived of reasonable recreation or amusement. If she has been accustomed to perform but a share in the different departments of labor in a well regulated family, she will have acquired all the knowledge necessary for a beginner, without any greater effect than will prove most salutary to the health of mind and body.

If ladies who have had some thirty or forty years' experience in housekeeping would occasionally impart a little of their experimental knowledge through the medium of agricultural journals, it would be highly appreciated by those who are just commencing on their "doubtful pilgrimage." I do not mean merely recipes for various kinds of cookery, but the best, easiest, and most economical method of doing all kinds of household labor; in a word, we want "Housekeeping made Easy."

A FARMER'S WIFE.

Onondaga Hill. N. Y., Nov. 1847.

### THE EFFECTS OF COSMETICS ON THE SKIN.

SOAP containing a due proportion of alkali, exercises a solvent power upon the cuticle, a minute portion of which it dissolves; but when it contains a small preponderance of oily matter, as a principal part of the finer kinds of soap do, it mechanically softens the skin and promotes its smoothness. Almond, Naples, and Castile soaps are esteemed for these properties, and milk of roses, cold cream, and almond paste are used for a similar purpose. To produce an opposite effect on the skin and harden the cuticle, alcohol, Bay rum, *eau de Cologne*, acids, astringent salts, &c., are commonly employed. The frequent use of hard water has a similar effect. The application of the last-named articles is generally for the purpose of strengthening or preserving any given part of the system against the action of heat, cold, moisture, &c., as sore lips, chapped hands, or chilblains; but in this respect, oils, pomades, and oleaginous substances are preferable.

Another class of cosmetics is employed to give an artificial bloom, or delicacy to the skin. Rouge and carmine are the articles most generally used to communicate a red color. The former is the only substance that can be employed, without injury, to brighten a lady's complexion; though the latter imparts unrivalled beauty, it leaves a sallowness to the skin which it is difficult to remove. Starch powder may be employed to impart a white tint to the skin, and is perfectly harmless, as also is very finely powdered magnesia; but several metallic compounds sold at the shops, as trisnitrate, subchloride, and oxid of bismuth (pearl white), carbonate of lead (flake white), white precipitates, &c., frequently used to revive faded complexions, are not only injurious to the skin, but act as poisons, if taken up by the absorbents. The employment of liquid preparations, containing sugar of lead, which are commonly sold under the name of "milk of roses," "cream of roses," &c., is equally injurious. Another disadvantage of these white metallic preparations, is, that they readily turn black when exposed to the action of sulphuretted hydrogen gas, or the vapors of sulphur, which frequently escape from our coal fires. There are numerous instances on record, of a whole company being alarmed by the pearly complexion of one of its belles, suddenly changing into a sickly gray, blue, or black. But after all, the best *purifiers* of the skin are soap and water, followed by the use of a coarse cloth, instead of the costly and soft diapers, that are commonly employed; and the best *beautifiers* are health, exercise, and good temper.

C.



## Boys' Department.

### WHY THE FIBRES OF COTTON ARE IMPROPER FOR SURGEON'S LINT.

It has long been observed that cotton cloth, however fine it may be, cannot, without injury, be substituted for linen in the preparation of surgeon's lint; and some authors, particularly Leuwenhoek, have imagined that they had found the reason of this, in the shape of the fibres of the cotton, which were conceived to have two flat sides, and that each of their minute parts must consequently have two acute angles or edges. These acute edges were conceived to be not only thinner and more subtle than the fleshy globules of which a wound is composed, but also more firm and stiff. Hence it was argued, that, upon the application of the fibres of cotton to a wound, their edges must not only hurt and irritate the globules of the flesh, but also incessantly cut the new matter brought to them to produce new flesh; whereas, on the contrary, it has been contended that the linen ordinarily used in wounds, is composed of little round parts, situated very close to each other, and when employed in large masses, is incapable of hurting or irritating the globular parts of the flesh.

The above explanation, which at best is ridiculous, has been admitted by authors of note on chemistry, notwithstanding it is obvious that the minute fibres of cotton, even if they were as sharp as supposed, could do but little harm when separated from the living flesh, by an inert coagulum or pus. Besides, the microscope assures us that this shape of the fibres of cotton exists only in the imaginations of those who have not observed them. The fibres of cotton consist of minute tubes analogous to the small hairs of the grasses, although much larger, which are ascertained to be merely elongated cells, closed at both ends, and filled with a substance tending to organize. They become flat by drying, after which they present the appearance of a band with fringed edges and a raised border. It is also certain that these bands or fibres of cotton are much more flexible than the tubes of hemp or flax. If then, the lint acted mechanically, that which is made of hemp or flax would be more hurtful than that which consists of cotton; and yet experience shows the contrary. We must then seek the explanation elsewhere, and a very natural one is to be found in the phenomena of capillary attraction. The fibres of hemp and flax are tubes open at both ends; and the watering to which they are usually subjected, empties them of all the juices which they contain. Those of cotton on the other hand, are hairs shut at both ends, and filled with a substance tending to organize, which no water nor washing can remove from them. It is, then, evident that the tubes of linen will be more proper than the hairs of cotton for imbibing blood or pus; for lint made of the latter will not imbibe anything, but will only allow a free passage among its fibres to any liquid which would have run off just in the same manner without it.

**HOW TO SCOUR OR CLEAN CLOTH.**—This is best done on a small scale, as for articles of wearing apparel, &c., by dissolving a little soap in water, and afterwards mixing it with a little ox gall, touching over all the spots of grease, dirt, &c., with

the mixture, and rubbing them well with a stiff brush until they are removed. After this, the article may be well rubbed all over with a brush or sponge, dipped into some warm water, to which the previous mixture and a little more ox gall has been added. When this has been properly done, it only remains to thoroughly rinse the article in clean water, until the latter passes off uncolored, when it must be hung up to dry.

### MODE OF KEEPING A STOCK REGISTER.

PRESUMING you will not be unwilling to hear occasionally from a young correspondent, I have ventured to introduce myself to your notice in presenting, for the benefit of numerous worthy readers of this Department, who may find themselves unoccupied-during some of these "nice long winter evenings," a few pages from my Stock Register, which may be explained as follows:—

The title page contains the name and residence of the owner.

The index shows the numbers and names of the animals, and the pages where they may be found.

Page 1, denotes the list or register belonging to a cow, called "Brindle," by way of distinction. It consists of three principal divisions, the two lower ones being subdivided. The upper one is appropriated for the name, number, birth, and pedigree; the middle, for the names of males she is put to, with the dates of such union; and the lower for the names and numbers of calves, with the times of their births. The narrow column at the left hand contains figures which correspond to each of the two lower divisions, so that if prefixed to a calf, it will show, by looking for the same in the middle divisions, its sire, etc., and *vice versa*.

Page 8, differs only from the preceding as regards the filling up of the middle divisions, females being inserted instead of males. The figures in the column are continued from page 7.

Page 30, is headed "calves." Four columns are there seen designated, for reference to this explanation, A, B, C, D.

A,	contains the numbers of calves.
B,	do names do.
C,	do number of dams.
D,	do concise remarks.

Here calves are entered soon after being dropped. Those considered of value as future breeders are named, whilst those sold to the butcher or others, are merely mentioned by their sex. The privileged ones remain in this list until they become parents, when they are transferred to the blank register in the preceding part of the book. A note of this transfer is made in column D, by a "V. p." For illustration, see Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7. No. 8, a male, from No. 2, or Kathleen, is remarked as "B. 116, 4w. 3c," which simply means, "butchered weight," 116 pounds, 4 weeks old, 3 cents per pound. See also Nos. 9, 30 and 31. Dolly Varden (25) is seen to be noticed as "D. V. Mem.," meaning "dead, vide Memoranda." Nos. 28 and 29, are "S. J. Brown, 1w. \$5," or sold to J. Brown, 1 week old. Price \$6.

Page 40, is devoted to "Memoranda," or general Remarks more in detail than could be elsewhere allowed.

CALVIN COULTER JR.

October 29, 1847.



THE  
**Stock Register**

OF  
**CALVIN COULTER,**  
**HAWTHORN HEDGES,**  
**N. J.**

**INDEX.**

PAGE.

1. Brindle .....	1
2. Kathleen .....	2
3. Nancy Dawson .....	3
4. Peggy .....	4
6. Alice Lee.....	5
6. Kate Nickleby .....	6
7. Harvey Birch.....	7, 8, 9

1

**BRINDLE (I.)**

Feb. 14,

1838.

Dam, Lady Jane, by Charles.  
d. 2, Molly, by  
d. 3, ———, by Prince.

1	Robert, .....	July 28, 1840.
2	Robert, .....	Aug. 14, 1841.
3	R. Harrison's, .....	June 30, 1842.
4	G. Wilson's, .....	July 3, 1843.
5	Harvey Birch, .....	May 16, 1844.
6	Harvey Birch, .....	June 15, 1845.
7	Harvey Birch, .....	May 23, 1846.

1	Alice Lee (v.).....	May 2, 1841.
2	H. Birch (vii.).....	May 27, 1842.
3	Female (xi.).....	Apr. 6, 1843.
4	Female (xiii.).....	Mar. 31, 1844.
5	Male (xix.).....	Feb. 17, 1845.
6	Cherry (xxvii.).....	Mar. 13, 1846.
7	Male (xxxii.).....	Feb. 26, 1847.

8

**HARVEY BIRCH (VII.)**

May 27,

1842.

Dam, Brindle (i.) by Robert.

7	K. Nickleby (vi.) .....	May 28, 1845.
8	N. Dawson (iii.).....	June 14, "
9	Brindle (i.) .....	June 15, "
10	Alice Lee (v.).....	June 21, "
11	Peggy (iv.) .....	July 8, "
12	Kathleen (ii.) .....	Aug. 7, "

7	D. Varden (xxv.) .....	Mar. 2, 1846.
8	Rory O'More (xxvi.)...	Mar. 18, "
9	Cherry (xxvii.).....	Mar. 13, "
10	Female (xxviii.).....	Mar. 28, "
11	Male (xxix.).....	Apr. 13, "
12	Female (xxx.) .....	May 9, "

30

**CALVES.**

A.	B.	C.	D.
4	Peggy,.....	1	V. p. 4.
5	Alice Lee, .....	2	" 5.
6	Kate Nickleby, ..	3	" 6.
7	Harvey Birch, ..	1	" 7, 8, 9.
8	Male, .....	2	B. 116, 4 w.—3c.
9	Female, .....	3	B. 125, 4 w.—3c.
	* * *		* * * * *
25	Dolly Varden, ..	6	D. V. Mem.
26	Rory O'More,...	3	
27	Cherry, .....	1	
28	Female, .....	5	S. J. Brown, 1 w.—\$5.00
29	Male, .....	4	" " " 6.00
30	Female, .....	2	B. 133, 4 w.—4c.
31	Male, .....	6	B. 130, 4 w.—4c.

40

**MEMORANDA.**

1842.	
June 30.	Paid R. Harrison for use of bull—75c.
1843.	
Jan. 16.	Brindle dried off.
May 4.	Mr. Robinson Dr. to use of bull—50c.
Dec. 23.	Alice Lee (5) sick. Cleaned mouth with salt and pepper.
— 28.	— Well.
1844.	
Jan. 3.	Commenced feeding carrots.
1846.	
Aug. 30.	Dolly Varden (25) found dead in pasture. Cause unknown.
1847.	
Apr. 27.	Turned cows into Lot H.



## FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL NEWS.

By the arrival of the Steamer *Britannia*, we are in receipt of our foreign journals to the 19th of November.

**MARKETS.**—*Ashes*, a slight decline. *Cotton*, no change. *Flour and Meal*, firm at a small advance. *Provisions*, same as per our last, with the exception of *cheese*, which had fallen 2s. per cwt. *Wool* in better demand. Other articles of American produce, no change.

*Money* was a little easier, with a slight fall in the rate of interest. Failures still continue among the large houses, with innumerable small ones. However, the crisis was considered past, and we may look for better times per next steamer.

**Disinfecting Fluid.**—One of the greatest boons which chemistry could confer, at the present day, would be the discovery of some substance easily and cheaply procured, that would at once have the power of preventing the volatilization of the gases formed during animal and vegetable decomposition, and at the same time rendering them fitted for use as manures. Many substances, such as chlorine, nitrate of lead, gypsum, charcoal, and sulphate of iron, have long been known to possess the power of decomposing the noxious gases given out during putrefaction, and forming with them solid or fluid substances; but the expense, or the injurious nature of the reagents, is such, that the matter acted upon by them cannot be profitably employed as manure.

Public attention, however, in England, and particularly on Continental Europe, has recently been called to a preparation, originally used by Messrs. Dam of Brussels, and Coutaret of Paris, and patented by Charles F. Ellerman, late British Consul at Antwerp, which, the discoverers assert, possesses the desirable qualities mentioned above. Numerous experiments have been made in England, France, and Belgium, before public authorities and a number of scientific men, to test the efficacy of the "disinfecting" or "deodorizing" process, all of whom bear testimony to the perfect success of instantly rendering the substances inodorous, excepting the reagent itself, which emitted a faintly sourish smell. The agent employed is a fluid, which, on being added to night soil or other animal matter, in a state of decomposition, in the proportion of one part in eight to one part in thirty-two, immediately arrests the process and prevents the escape of those gases that give these substances their disagreeable odor. For the purpose, then, of disinfecting drains, cesspools, slaughter houses, hospitals, manure heaps, and other places, this process may be regarded as the most effective of any hitherto introduced.

The discoverers and patentee of this reagent speak in positive terms with regard to its value in manufacturing manure, but at present no experiments have been performed to test this point. The manure formed by this fluid in connection with night soil, blood, &c., is free from disagreeable odor, and greatly resembles poudrette; but, on account of the facility and rapidity with which it may be prepared, it is stated that it can be sold at a much cheaper rate. It is also asserted that the compound thus formed contains 4 per cent. of azote, whilst poudrette contains but 1½ per cent. It is conjectured that this fluid is a preparation of iron; and it is well known that sulphate of iron, as an agent for fixing the gases of decomposing organic matter, is, that the iron unites with the phosphoric acid of the compound and forms an insoluble phosphate of iron, thus depriving the manure of one of its most important constituents. Whether such a result occurs in the employment of this reagent or not, we must wait the result of experiment to determine. It may have sufficient good qualities to recommend it as a cheap and useful fertilizer, even though a portion of the phosphates should be thus rendered useless.

It is stated by Mr. Ellerman that one part of this fluid to one hundred parts of decomposing matter is sufficient

in most cases for the purpose of manure. Should it be found, then, to answer this use, and be sold at *one shilling* sterling (22½ cts.) per gallon, as offered by the patentee, it can but be regarded as one of the most important applications of chemistry to agriculture that has ever existed, however remote the age.

**Age of Poultry.**—Farmers usually sell poultry alive, excepting in some parts of the country, such as the Borders, where geese are killed and plucked for the sake of their feathers before being sent to market. Poulterers in towns, on the other hand, kill and pluck every sort of fowl for sale, so that the purchaser has it in his power to judge of the carcass; and if he buys an inferior article at a high price, it must be his own fault. It is easy to judge of a plucked fowl, whether old or young, by the state of the *legs*. If a hen's spur is hard, and the scales on the legs rough, she is old, whether you see her head or not; but the head will corroborate your observation, if the under bill is so stiff that you cannot bend it down, and the comb thick and rough. A young hen has only the rudiments of spurs, the scales on the legs smooth, glossy, and fresh colored, whatever the color may be, the claws tender and short, the under bill soft, and the comb thin and smooth. An old hen turkey has rough scales on the legs, callosities on the soles of the feet, and long strong claws; a young one the reverse of all these marks. When the feathers are on, and the old turkey cock has a long beard, a young one but a sprouting one; and when they are off, the smooth scales on the legs decide the point, besides difference of size in the wattles of the neck and in the elastic shot upon the nose. An old goose, when alive, is known by the rough legs, the strength of the wings, particularly at the pinions, the thickness and strength of the bill, and the firmness and thickness of the feathers; and when plucked, by the legs, pinions and bill, and the coarseness of the skin. Ducks are distinguished by the same means, but there is this difference, that a duckling's bill is much longer in proportion to the breadth of its head than an old duck. A young pigeon is discovered by its pale colored, smooth scaled, tender, collapsed feet, and the yellow long down interspersed among the feathers. A pigeon that can fly has always red colored legs and no down, and is then too old for use.—*Book of the Farm.*

**Cultivation of Flax in Ireland.**—A fine specimen of flax has been exhibited at Cork. The crop grown in Mayo has been estimated at £70 per ton. The tow sold for £38 per ton.

**Ilawarra Hops.**—Hitherto we have been entirely dependant on importation from England and America for this essential article to the brewing of sound and wholesome beer. It is no stretch of the imagination to predict that in the course of four or five years our native growth of hops will supersede the necessity of importing them. From an estimate of the quantity of beer brewed in Australia, the annual consumption of hops cannot be less than fifty tons. A sample of colonial hops has been sent us, which, we are assured by those who are competent judges, may be put in competition with the best imported Kent hops, without losing anything by the comparison.—*Sydney paper.*

**Swine in Portugal.**—Besides the short squat thickset China hog prevalent in the northern provinces, there is another breed, remarkable for its size and long lanky flat sides, as though pressed between two deal boards, exceedingly high in bone, standing as high as any of our race of donkeys, but twice as long in body. Although very flat, this is inlaid, as it were, with flesh in due proportion, owing to the extraordinary mode of feeding, and the enormous exercise taken during their perigrinations, traversing many hundred miles through dense woods, deep valleys, and lofty mountains before returning to their homesteads to be slaughtered.—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*



## Editor's Table.

**DUPLICATE ARTICLES.**—Some of our correspondents are in the habit of sending us a copy of articles which they also forward to other periodicals for publication. We will say, with all due respect, that we want none such; for by publishing them simultaneously or after another paper, would make it appear as if we had copied it from such paper without giving it the proper credit. If, therefore, we cannot be furnished with articles written for and sent to our paper exclusively, we do not wish them at all.

**IMPROVED STOCK FOR THE SOUTH.**—We had the pleasure of forwarding, the past month, to Mr. E. R. Brown of Gallatin, Miss., two beautiful Devon heifers, and a noble pair, each, of Cotswold and South-down sheep. All these were bred by Mr. L. F. Allen, of Buffalo, and are excellent representatives of his fine stock. Mr. Brown ordered last year, a number of Merino sheep, selected from the flocks of our most noted breeders, and has at various other times purchased choice animals at the north. He certainly deserves great credit for his enterprise, and we trust that his efforts to improve the stock at the south will be crowned with marked success. We know not of a superior region of country in the United States, to the upper part of the State of Mississippi, for rearing stock; and we have no doubt that within ten years, it will become celebrated for its fine beef, mutton, pork, and perhaps even dairy products.

**ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—Professor Norton, of Yale College, is to deliver this address at the next annual meeting of the Society at Albany, on the 19th inst. We have no doubt that it will be an able and instructive one, and we bespeak a general attendance to hear it.

**THE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF ENGLAND;** being a History of the People as well as a History of the Kingdom. Illustrated by several hundred wood cuts of Monumental Records, Coins, Civil and Military Costume, Domestic Buildings, Furniture, and Ornaments; Cathedrals, and other great works of Architecture; Sports, and other Illustrations of Manners; Mechanical Inventions; Portraits of the Kings and Queens; and remarkable Historical Scenes. By George L. Craik and Charles McFarlane, assisted by other contributors. New York: Harper & Brothers. Vol. iii, pp. 885, large octavo. Price, 25 cents per number, or \$3.50 a volume. From what we have already said concerning this work, which, by general consent is pronounced the most reliable, accurate, and admirably arranged history of Great Britain that has ever appeared, it would seem superfluous for us to add anything more; but as its publication progresses, we become more familiar with its contents, new features in its pages are brought to mind, and we can speak more confidently of its merits. To read this work with care and attentively examine its illustrations, is in itself an education, and would be impossible for a man to accomplish without attaining some degree of refinement. Mr. Prescott, the learned author of "Ferdinand and Isabella," says:—"The pictorial illustrations are admirable, not merely as embellishments, but for the information they convey; sustaining the text in a manner that presents it still more vividly to the reader's mind; conveying, indeed, much of which, from the nature of the subject, it is impossible to give an adequate idea by description alone. The reader who has studied English history in the great works of Hume, Lingard, or Hallam, will find still much to be gleaned from a work like the present, which, with the narrative of events portrayed by these historians, combines the fruits of antiquarian and critical researches in walks which they have not entered. He will gather, in short, from the study of these volumes a more thorough and satisfactory view of the in-

terior organization of the country, its domestic resources, and its progress in civilization, than is to be found in any single work with which I am acquainted."

We would invite the special attention of the directors or trustees of libraries, as well as the agricultural community generally, to the preeminent claims of this sterling and most important publication; and repeat, that every family in our land, who can afford it, should avail themselves of its perusal.

**THE FRUITS OF AMERICA;** by C. M. Hovey, editor of the Magazine of Horticulture. Boston; Hovey & Co., 1 Merchant's Row, and C. M. Saxton, 205 Broadway, N. Y. Large octavo with colored engraving. Price \$1 a number. The third number of this superb work has been received and fully equals our expectations. It contains the description and figures of the Swan's Orange Pear; the Sweet Montmorenci Cherry; the Hovey's Seedling Strawberry; and the Boston Pine Strawberry.

**THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN;** a weekly newspaper, published by Munn & Co., 128 Fulton St., N. Y., at \$2 per annum, one half to be paid in advance, and the balance at the end of the year.

**THE HEMP CROP.**—A merchant of St. Louis, writing to the editor of the Cincinnati Gazette, says:—

"The most carefully formed estimates of the hemp crop of the Missouri River gives the product this year in round numbers, as, 13,000 tons. Add to this the product of the whole West beside, which may be set down at 17,000 tons, and you have an amount equal to 50,000 tons—from this deduct the quantity used in the West in manufactures, say 12,000 tons, and you have for export from 18 to 20,000 tons, or more than equal to the requirements of all northern seaports, and leaving a considerable quantity for export.

**A HOGGISH CONVEYANCE.**—A farmer of St. Alban's, Vermont, recently made a grand entrée into that place, mounted on a small car drawn by four large hogs. He entered the town at a brisk trot, amidst the acclamations of hundreds, who were soon drawn together to witness this uncommon spectacle. After making the tour of the market place three or four times, he went into the wood pack yard, had his swinish cattle unharnessed and taken into a stable together, where they were regaled with a trough full of beans and wash. They remained about two hours, while he dispatched his business as usual at the market, when they were put to and driven home again, multitudes cheering him. This man, it is said, has only had these animals under training six months. A gentleman on the spot offered him \$240 for the concern as it stood, but it was indignantly refused.—*Ex. Paper.*

**STATE TOLLS ON THE N. Y. RAILROADS.**—In examining the Freight Tariff made in reference to the law of the Legislature, which requires the railroad companies between Albany, Troy, and Buffalo, to pay to the State, canal tolls, distance being reckoned by the canal distances from place to place, it will be perceived that tolls are exacted, in several instances, on articles that would never pass through the canal at all, on account of their perishable natures. Of this class may be included fresh meat in carcass, poultry, fresh fish, clams and oysters in the shell, sheep pelts, &c. Another class of articles are taxed which are perishable, in part or would be very inconsiderable in quantity or in numbers, in their transit through the canal, as their demand is somewhat limited except during the suspension of navigation. Among this class may be reckoned live stock, butter, cheese, and eggs, to some extent, green apples, potatoes, lemons, oranges, pressed hay, field and garden seeds, &c., &c.

This tax, it must be remembered, is not levied at the expense of the railroad corporations, but has to be paid by the producers or consumers. It does seem to us that this subject demands public attention, and that these tolls should be established on equitable principles.



## REVIEW OF THE MARKET.

PRICES CURRENT IN NEW YORK, DECEMBER 15, 1847.

ASHES, Pots,.....per 100 lbs.	\$5 50	to	\$5 56
Pearls,.....do.	7 00	"	7 06
BALE ROPE,.....lb.	5	"	6
BARK, Quercitron,.....ton.	35 00	"	38 00
BEANS, White,.....bush.	1 00	"	1 34
BEEFWAX, Am. Yellow,.....lb.	22	"	25
BOLT ROPE,.....do.	11	"	12 1/2
BONES, ground,.....bush.	45	"	55
BRISTLES, American,.....lb.	25	"	65
BUTTER, Table,.....do.	15	"	25
Shipping,.....do.	9	"	15
CANDLES, Mould, Tallow,.....do.	12	"	14
Sperm,.....do.	25	"	38
Stearic,.....do.	20	"	25
CHEESE,.....do.	5	"	10
COAL, Anthracite,.....2000 lbs.	5 00	"	6 00
CORDAGE, American,.....lb.	11	"	13
COTTON,.....do.	6	"	9
COTTON BAGGING, Amer. hemp,....yard.	15	"	16
FEATHERS,.....lb.	30	"	40
FLAX, American,.....do.	7 1/2	"	9
FLOUR, Northern and Western,.....bbl.	6 00	"	6 25
Fancy,.....do.	6 50	"	7 00
Southern,.....do.	6 00	"	6 25
Richmond City Mills,.....do.	7 44	"	7 50
Buckwheat,.....do.	—	"	—
Rye,.....do.	4 33	"	4 50
GRAIN—Wheat, Western,.....bush.	1 20	"	1 40
Southern,.....do.	1 15	"	1 30
Rye,.....do.	80	"	85
Corn, Northern,.....do.	75	"	80
Southern,.....do.	73	"	76
Barley,.....do.	76	"	83
Oats, Northern,.....do.	45	"	48
Southern,.....do.	40	"	43
GUANO,.....do.	2 50	"	3 00
HAY, in bales,.....100 lbs.	58	"	60
HEMP, Russia, clean,.....ton.	220 00	"	225 00
American, water-rotted,.....do.	160 00	"	220 00
American, dew-rotted,.....do.	140 00	"	200 00
HIDES, Dry Southern,.....do.	7	"	9
HOPS,.....lb.	6	"	8
HORNS,.....100.	2 00	"	10 00
LEAD, pig,.....do.	4 12	"	4 38
Sheet and bar,.....lb.	4 1/2	"	5 1/2
MEAL, Corn,.....bbl.	3 00	"	3 75
Corn,.....hhd.	16 75	"	17 00
MOLASSES, New Orleans,.....gal.	27	"	28
MUSTARD, American,.....lb.	16	"	31
NAVAL STORES—Tar,.....bbl.	2 00	"	2 25
Pitch,.....do.	81	"	1 00
Rosin,.....do.	60	"	75
Turpentine,.....do.	2 25	"	2 50
Spirits Turpentine, Southern,....gal.	37	"	40
OIL, Linseed, American,.....do.	58	"	60
Castor,.....do.	1 20	"	1 25
Lard,.....do.	85	"	90
OIL CAKE,.....100 lbs.	1 25	"	1 50
PEAS, Field,.....bush.	1 00	"	1 25
PLASTER OF PARIS,.....ton.	2 25	"	3 00
Ground, in bbls.,.....of 300 lbs.	1 12	"	1 25
PROVISIONS—Beef, Mess,.....bbl.	8 25	"	12 00
Prime,.....do.	5 25	"	7 50
Smoked,.....lb.	7	"	11
Rounds, in pickle,.....do.	5	"	7
Pork, Mess,.....bbl.	13 00	"	15 00
Prime,.....do.	9 75	"	12 00
Lard,.....lb.	10	"	11 1/2
Bacon sides, Smoked,....do.	6	"	8
In pickle,.....do.	5	"	7
Hams, Smoked,.....do.	8	"	13
Pickled,.....do.	6	"	10
Shoulders, Smoked,.....do.	6	"	9
Pickled,.....do.	5	"	7
RICE,.....100 lbs.	3 00	"	4 00
SALT,.....sack.	1 40	"	1 50
Common,.....bush.	20	"	35
SEEDS—Clover,.....lb.	5	"	8
Timothy,.....bush.	1 75	"	3 50
Flax, clean,.....7 do.	10 00	"	11 00
rough,.....do.	9 25	"	9 50
SODA, Ash, cont'g 80 per cent. soda,....lb.	3	"	3
Sulphate Soda, ground,.....do.	1	"	—
SUGAR, New Orleans,.....do.	6	"	9
SUMAC, American,.....ton.	35 00	"	37 00
TALLOW,.....lb.	8	"	9
TOBACCO,.....do.	3	"	8
WHISKEY, American,.....gal.	26	"	28
WOOLS, Saxony,.....lb.	35	"	60
Merino,.....do.	30	"	35
Half blood,.....do.	20	"	25
Common do,.....do.	18	"	20

REMARKS.—Very little change has taken place since our last. Produce keeps up remarkably well, in the absence of no very great foreign demand.

Money continues tight, but it is thought it will be more abundant after the first week in January.

The Weather has been unprecedentedly mild and rainy during the month. The thermometer has ranged generally from 55° to 67°. No frost in the ground, and many of the farmers are plowing for the spring crops.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Communications have been received from Reviewer, Wm. Bacon Wm. Wheddon, A New Yorker, and Wm. H. Sotham.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—A Treatise on Calcareous Manures, Third Edition, from Edmund Ruffin, Esq.

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" 2 " " 500 and 600 " 30

" 3 " " 800 and 1000 " 40

✂ Rights for towns, counties, or states, will be disposed of on very reasonable terms.

Reference, Editor of American Agriculturist.

L. G. HOFFMAN.

Albany, Sept. 1, 1847.

d2t

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Flushing, L. I., January 1, 1847.

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**CONTENTS OF JANUARY NUMBER.**

To our Readers; Importance of Educating the Farmer;	9
Annual Value of Agricultural Products	10
Weeds—their Utility; Agricultural Society Addresses	10
Number of Swine in the United States; Pruning of the	12
Peach Tree	12
Swine Running at Large; Annual Meeting of the N. Y.	13
State Agricultural Society; Rot in Potatoes	13
Apple Orchards, No. 5	14
Work for the Season; Secretary of the State Agricultural	15
Society	15
Choice Varieties of Apples	16
Agriculture of the Chinese, No. 1	17
The Canadian Provincial Cattle Show at Hamilton, L. F. A.	18
Letters of R. L. Allen, No. 1	21
Management of Honey Bees, No. 15, T. B. Miner	22
The Cotton Trade; Ice Houses	23
Swine, No. 1	25
Hints for the South, R. Abbey	26
The next Show and Fair of the State Agricultural Society	27
Culture of the Grape in the Southern States, S. B. Parsons	28
Yankee Farming, No. 1, Sergeant Teltrue	29
Food for Pregnant Animals; Extraordinary Trotting in	31
Tandem; Monographs of Varieties of Fruit, H.	31
W. Beecher	31
Taplin's Horse Power; Dressing Wounds; Venerable	32
Apple Tree	32
LADIES' DEPARTMENT: Hints to Mothers, A Far-	33
mer's Wife; The Effects of Cosmetics on the	33
Skin, C.	33
BOYS' DEPARTMENT: Why the Fibres of Cotton are Im-	34
proper for Surgeon's Lint; How to Scour or Clean	34
Cloth; Mode of Keeping a Stock Register, Calvin	34
Coulter, Jr.	34
Foreign Agricultural News	35
Editor's Table	36
Review of the Market	37